the
Central Voice
CENTRAL PA'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE

York Equality Fest Returns
OFFICIAL GUIDE INSIDE

LGBT MUST-READS: OUR TOP PICKS
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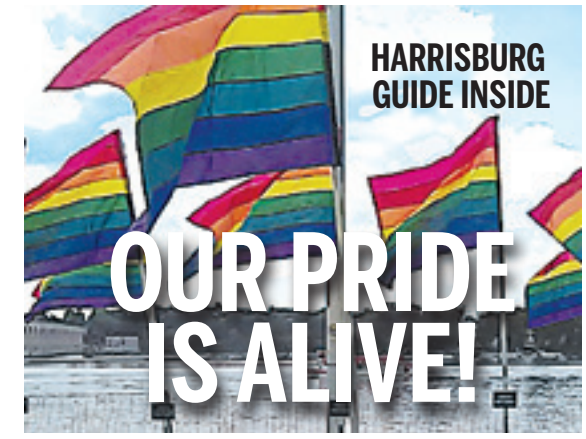

THECENTRALVOICE.COM | JULY & AUGUST 2017 | FREE

Welcome to the redesigned Central Voice

By Joe & Louise Sukle
Owners of The Central Voice

The Central Voice has just finished one of the most comprehensive transformations in our 14-year history: The redesign of our print and digital publications which subsequently prompted profound soul-searching to meet our many challenges.

Should we channel more resources into our print edition (which provides the lion's share of revenue) or invest more in the paper's digital edition? According to so-called digital media prophets the future of journalism is in the world of websites and apps. But how do we keep the doors open when digital investments provide only a fraction of total revenues?

If *The Central Voice* ceased publishing tomorrow, who has the most to lose? The answer is that there would be a tremendous vacuum; for readers, organizations and public officials who depend on this newspaper to be a credible and comprehensive source of news and information; for our advertisers who depend on this newspaper to connect them with local consumers; and for our vendors and 30-plus employees who rely on our family of publications for income.

This newspaper is one that values journalism and believes in public service.

We don't believe newspapers are on the path to obsolescence but on one that will necessitate delivering news and information in lots of different ways. We don't accept that citizen journalism will emerge as a substitute for what community newspapers do best: telling accurate, compelling stories with context and consistency.

What lies ahead for us (and all mainstream media organizations) almost certainly includes immense risks — the toughest will be the transition period. We have 100 percent confidence we will survive.

So, how are we meeting the challenges? Press And Journal Inc., parent company of *The Central Voice,* is evolving, but we definitely aren't going away, nor will our need to continually learn, listen and reinvest.

We recognized the persistent points of pain and frustration with the old website, thecentralvoice.ning.com. Navigation tools on TheCentralVoice.com are now user-friendly across multiple platforms — meaning it

Please see **WELCOME**, page **4**

BILL TO INCLUDE SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY IN THE TYPES OF BANNED DISCRIMINATION IS INTRODUCED FOR THE 7th TIME

How much longer do we wait?

Pennsylvania Fairness Act will be reintroduced with bipartisan support by State Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, co-chairman of the legislature's LGBT Equality Caucus.

The bill has been introduced seven times in the last 14 years.

There are 73 members of the House and 16 members of the Senate co-sponsoring the current bill.

The bill would include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in the types of discrimination banned statewide in the workplace, housing and public accommodations. Frankel is urging House Speaker Mike Turzai, R-Allegheny, to send the bill to a committee where it can get a fair hearing, not the State Government Committee chaired by anti-LGBT Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, R-Butler.

Frankel said, "Pennsylvania polls for the past eight years have shown consistent 70 percent support for providing our LGBT relatives, friends, neighbors and co-workers with the same protections as the rest of us. Many Pennsylvanians are stunned when they find out state or federal law doesn't already protect LGBT people in in the workplace, in housing and public accommodations such as being able to eat in a restaurant or to get a hotel room like everyone else," Frankel said.

"It's past time to fix this. More than 40 local governments across the state have decided to stop waiting on Harrisburg or Washington, but the legislature should do the right thing and provide these common-sense protections statewide. This would help us to compete for jobs and residents with all the other northeastern states, which already have these protections, and give us an advantage over the states that don't. The recent backlashes against anti-LGBT laws in Indiana and North Carolina show the economic penalty for doing the wrong thing, or the economic reward for doing the right thing.

"For example, a major company put adding 1,200 well-paying jobs on hold in North

Please see **WAIT**, page **24**

Sports Medicine at PinnacleHealth

Bone and Joint Center

If you have an injury or medical condition that is affecting your ability to exercise, participate in sports or maintain an active lifestyle, Dr. Michael Cordas and his team at the PinnacleHealth Bone and Joint Center can help.

We offer a full range of non-surgical treatment options including bracing, casting, injections and exercise/physical therapy referrals, as well as a comprehensive concussion management program.

We offer X-ray services within our facility and will coordinate any advanced imaging (MRI, CT scan, bone scan) that you may need. If surgery is required, we will coordinate your care with one of our highly skilled orthopedic surgeons.

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2005 Technology Parkway, Suite 100
Mechanicsburg

PINNACLEHEALTH
Bone and Joint Center

pinnaclehealth.org/sportsmed
(717) 791-2620

INTERNATIONAL

CUBA

CASTRO'S DAUGHTER MARCHES ON CAPITAL

Mariela Castro, daughter of Cuban President Raúl Castro recently led a march through the Cuban capital that commemorated the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. More than 2,000 people marched from the Havana's oceanfront to the Habana Libre hotel in the Vedado neighborhood. She directs Cuba's National Center for Sexual Education that is known by the Spanish acronym CENESEX. A delegation of American LGBTQ advocates, organized by Cuban-American civil-rights attorney Tico Almeida, included Brad Sears, executive director of the Williams Institute think tank at UCLA Law School; trans activist Dana Beyer, executive director of Gender Rights Maryland; and Nadine Smith, CEO of Equality Florida.

TRUMP TO REVERSE COURSE ON CUBA?

Andrea Mitchell of NBC News has reported that President Trump may reverse warmer relations with Cuba. A move to previous policies could once again limit travel to the Communist island and tighten trade regulations, although it not expected that Trump would cut diplomatic ties with Cuba or close the U.S. Embassy in Havana that reopened in August 2015. Trump opponent then endorser U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who was born in Havana and left Cuba with her family after Fidel Castro came to power in the 1959 Cuban revolution, are critics of the normalization of relations.

MALAYSIA

GAY 'PREVENTION' COMPETITION SEEKS VIDEOS

A competition launched on the Malaysian health ministry's website offers up to $1,000 for the best videos tackling "gender confusion" and help with "preventing" homosexuality. Responding to an outcry from LGBT activists, the health ministry said that its aim was to promote creativity, not to discriminate. The contest is for 13- to 24-year-olds. Their entries should explore prevention and control; issues and consequences; and how to get help, said the ministry's website. In a statement, Deputy Director-General of Health Lokman Hakim Sulaiman said: "This creative video competition is purely to tap knowledge and creativity of adolescents on sexual and reproductive health related matters and does not intend to create discrimination to any particular group." The guidelines cited gay and lesbian people, transgender people and tomboys as examples of people who suffered from "gender confusion". Homosexual activity is illegal in Malaysia under both secular and religious laws. It is punishable by a prison sentence or corporal punishment.

WARSAW

THOUSANDS MARCH SUPPORTING GAY RIGHTS

Warsaw residents marched in support of gay rights June 4. Out of 49 European countries, Poland is 37th on a scale of support for LGBT rights. "Homophobia causes heart illness," one banner read. The 17th annual 'Equality Parade' took place as Poland's conservative government continues to oppose civil unions for same-sex couples. Organizers put the number at 50,000, while the police said 13,000 attended the parade, with 40 foreign embassies, including those of France and the US, expressing their support. The parade was intended to "draw attention to the rights of LGBT people, fight discrimination and promote acceptance of same-sex unions," with people also marching in support of people with disabilities, religious minorities other marginalized groups, the organizers said. Poland's constitution is one of seven in the EU to ban gay marriage and the country is one of six in the 28-member bloc not to allow same-sex civil unions.

CHINA

CONFERENCE CLOSED, ORGANIZERS DETAINED

Speak Out 2017, an LGBT conference, was cancelled after Chinese authorities told organizers that LGBT events were not welcome in the city, said organizers. Xi'an Police detained the event organizers for eight hours on June 4, according to the event web site. "In those eight hours, we were completely cut off from the world – we were clearly told, 'LGBT events can never be held in Xi'an,' 'Xi'an does not welcome LGBT events,' and other such warnings," the 2017 Xi'an conference's curator wrote. Organizers were forced to turn over their mobile phones, administrator access to their systems, passwords, and a list of speakers to authorities, according to the web site. They were not permitted to contact anyone.

GRINDR NOW CHINESE OWNED

A little-known Chinese tech company, game developer Beijing Kunlun Tech, has agreed to pay $240 million for the popular gay/bi hook-up web site Grindr. so that it can become fully involved in the daily operations of the world's largest gay social media app, as it expands and builds a loyal user base beyond China. The takeover comes at a time when China, the world's most populous nation but lagging the West in achieving equal legal status for its homosexual citizens, is cultivating a lucrative industry catering to the social needs of the gay community. Grindr, founded in 2009 in the United States, is the world's largest LGBT social-network application, counting over 27 million registered users across 196 countries and territories across the world.

RUSSIA

FIVE ACTIVISTS DETAINED IN MOSCOW

Five activists were arrested in Moscow recently while attempting to deliver a petition demanding Russian authorities investigate the kidnapping and torture of gay men in Chechnya. (See *Chechnya*, page 20 by The *Central Voice* writer and columnist Louie Marven) Several dozen men have been detained and tortured by authorities in Chechnya in the past few months, according to reports by the Russian independent news outlet Novaya Gazeta. Chechnya is a semi-autonomous region inside Russia, and its leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, responded to the reports by saying "we have never had gay men" in the republic. Russian President Vladimir Putin said he'd order federal authorities to assist in an investigation after being pressed on the issue by German Chancellor Angela Merkel earlier this month.

HUNGARY

US ANTI-LGBT HATE GROUP WELCOMED

Hungary's rightwing government has opened a potential new front in its war of words with Brussels by hosting a lavish international gathering for an American Christian organization that has been accused of being anti-LGBT hate group with links to the Kremlin. The 11th World Congress of Families (WCF) summit meeting kicked off in Budapest with a typically pugnacious speech by Viktor Orban, the Hungarian prime minister, who accused the European Union of being dominated by a "relativizing liberal ideology that's an insult to families". This marks the latest episode in Orban's quest to position himself as a self-styled defender of "European Christian values," a role he has used to justify his Fidesz government's draconian treatment of mainly Muslim refugees and migrants.

NATIONAL

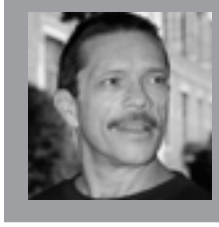
TRANSGENDER DETAINEES TRANSFERRED

Joey Peters reports that a group of transgender women detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement were recently transferred to New Mexico from a detention center in California. In a detention center in Milan, the women are housed in a pod together. ICE transferred the dozen or so women in early May to Cibola County Detention Center in Milan from a similar facility in Santa Ana, California, where ICE made its first dedicated transgender module. Adrian Lawyer, co-director of the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico, said his organization reached out to the detainees and recently toured the Cibola County facility. At press time, no one in the organization had talked to the women.

Please see **POLITICAL UPDATES**, page **6**

Show off your assets!

Publisher's Voice



By Frank Pizzoli

"In the last several months, I've found myself reading emails alerting me to programs on the dangers of this, that and the other thing... "

These are tough times.

LGBT people around the country face a climate of uncertainty, discrimination, and fear that imperils the progress towards equality for which we have fought for many years.

In spite of the political climate, we are a resilient people. This we know. Each generation who has stood on the shoulders of the previous generation – and then, in turn, became strong shoulders for the next – knows this to be true.

We should always remember to show off our assets. We have so many. Yet so many of our adversaries, and well-meaning allies, only speak of us in terms of our deficits. They now have us doing it to ourselves.

If you look at a lot of the programs offered in our community at local, state, and national levels, we don't seem so resilient. In the last several months, I've found myself reading emails alerting me to programs on the dangers of this, that and the other thing if one is a member of the LGBT community.

I've asked myself, and friends and long-time allies: Are there any happy LGBT people?

Of course there are. Maybe we don't see them at this, that or the other event because they're so happy living life, they don't have time for us. We're too whiney for them. They get a headache. They'd rather not.

I am not denying or underestimating the level of renewed hate and violence against our community. We publish stories and in-depth analysis on the state of affairs six times a year from local, state, national, and international perspectives.

I am well aware of the plight of our brothers and sister in Eastern Europe, Russia, Chechnya, and Asian nations. We cover that too, often with direct sourcing.

In addition to these challenges – and threats to our lives and what seems like our very existence – we have assets. These assets will keep us loving and alive.

If you're young and bullied, speak up. Demand respect. Make some noise in a respectful way that will accomplish something.

If you're elderly and fear being discriminated against in a nursing home or retirement village, same as above.

Always remember that those who hate and do violence to us need an "other" in their life in ways they do not understand. Our assets will disarm them.

WELCOME:
Publishers roll out new Central Voice

From page 1

looks good on your computer, your tablet and your phone.

TheCentralVoice.com content will still be free when you register and users will be rewarded with timelier, expanded coverage. We are now able to make website changes at the true pace of breaking news with additional content and features that give us more opportunities to contribute and interact with our community.

We've also hit the ground running with our print product. Nearly everything about the way the newspaper looks has changed.

One of the most obvious changes, as you've probably already noted, is our new masthead, our first in many years. Our layout is meant to be easier to read but most importantly, more useful and relevant.

So, what hasn't changed? The same commitment we've always had to provide up to date and accurate community news. This newspaper is one that values journalism and believes in public service.

It will take vision and a willingness to accept risks and some failures, but we plan on being here for a very long time. Thank you, thank you, thank you, *Central Voice* readers and advertisers. You have given us the support to embrace our past while looking forward to the future. We want you to know how grateful we are that we are still together.

the Central Voice

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Be sure to visit the Central Voice .com

Why clean the Susquehanna River?

Pennsylvania has 19,000 miles of impaired rivers and streams, the most of any state in the nation.

By Donna Morelli
Chesapeake Bay Journal

Pennsylvania advocates for the Bay and clean water are hoping for new dedicated funding to clean up the Susquehanna River in the midst of another tough budget year in Harrisburg, where environmental programs are being cut again.

Legislation has been introduced to renew Pennsylvania's popular Growing Greener program [Senate Bill 795 (Killion-R-Delaware)], which over nearly two decades has poured roughly $1.3 billion into protecting water resources and preserving open space and farmland.

But the Growing Greener program is running short of money, and lawmakers have yet to figure out how to pay for a new round of projects.

Nor are they any closer to finding the increased funds needed to deal with Pennsylvania's polluted streams and rivers, its lax oversight of drinking water safety or its federally mandated obligation to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

In late May, Sen. Tom Killion, R-Delaware, introduced Senate Bill 705, which is similar to last year's unsuccessful Growing Greener legislation. A House bill is expected to be introduced later this month.

As introduced, the bill would establish what supporters call "a framework" for a new Growing Greener III program. It would expand the number of state agencies eligible to receive funding, and authorize spending on efforts to conserve forests and improve water quality.

The Growing Greener Coalition, an alliance of conservation, recreation and preservation groups, has identified $315 million a year in needed spending on projects supporting clean water, locally grown food, parks, trails and outdoor recreation.

Under the draft legislation, up to 40 percent would have to be spent in the Susquehanna basin, the largest source of fresh water – and pollution – to the Bay. Advocates hope that will address at least some of Pennsylvania's shortcomings in reducing nutrient and sediment pollution reaching the Chesapeake.

Killion's Growing Greener bill enjoys bipartisan support from a majority of the state Senate. However, it fails to identify a source of funding for the new projects.

And existing funding for Growing Greener has decreased 75 percent over the last decade, from about $200 million a year in the mid-2000s to $57 million this year. The legislation doesn't address how to reverse that.

Andrew Heath, the Growing Greener Coalition's executive director, said supporters want to build public and legislative support for continuing the program first and then try to corral funding for it later.

"Instead of having any opposition right now, we want to set the framework for the funding," Heath said. "Whatever revenue the state uses to balance the budget---whatever that catalyst is-- we want to be part of that."

Budget discussions have little time to progress before the June 30 deadline, and the Growing Greener legislation has just been introduced.

"Nobody is talking about it significantly, and it is May; our objective now is the budget," said Jeffrey Cluckey, budget and environmental analyst for the House Appropriations Committee.

Begun in 1999, Growing Greener has developed hundreds of local parks and trails, conserved more than 80,000 acres of open space, and restored hundreds of miles of streams and waterways.

It's also preserved more than 78,000 acres of farmland, cleaned up abandoned mine land and funded more than 100 water and sewage system upgrades.

When first established, lawmakers committed $645 million to it for five years. Then in 2002, the legislature voted to give it a permanent source of revenue, from a tipping fee imposed on garbage haulers.

Growing Greener is the closest thing Pennsylvania has to funds in Maryland and Virginia dedicated to water quality projects and Bay restoration.

In 2005, Pennsylvania voters overwhelmingly approved a $625 million bond issue to continue the program, dubbed Growing Greener II, for another six years with borrowed money.

Now, the Growing Greener II proceeds have been spent or committed, and roughly half the tipping fee revenue is going to pay down the debt.

Growing Greener is the closest thing Pennsylvania has to funds in Maryland and Virginia dedicated to water quality projects and Bay restoration.

Those two states are on track to meet their 2025 cleanup goals under the Bay "pollution diet" imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency, while Pennsylvania is far short of doing what's needed to reduce nitrogen and sediment reaching the Chesapeake, according to EPA.

Cost estimates of what Pennsylvania would need to invest annually to get on track range from as low as $241 million in a 2013 Penn State study to $674 million in a University of Maryland report last year. The state is now spending about $140 million annually.

The Pennsylvania delegation of the interstate Chesapeake Bay Commission is calling on the state to create a water fund, which would be used to restore local water quality as well as meet the state's obligations to the Bay restoration effort – something the EPA has demanded in letters to the state.

Voice Box

Notes from our readers

E-mail your thoughts to posops@aol.com

Amazing

"Our Equality Fest Guide looks AMAZING!!!!!! You all work absolutely wonders! Thanks so much for the important and top notch work that you do."

Carla Christopher
Executive Board Member, York Equality Fest

Always

"I always enjoy reading Central Voice."

Ted Sickler
Board of Directors, LGBT Center of Central PA

Why we need to teach civics again

By Frank Pizzoli

Supporters at President Trump's rally in Harrisburg, Pa. last April agreed on two things, reported AOL: Trump deserves high marks for his first 100 days in office, and House Speaker Paul Ryan needs to go.

"Ryan is a complete idiot," said rallygoer John Knepper speaking with AOL.com. "If I was Trump, boom, he'd be out of there in no time."

President Trump does not have the constitutional power to remove the Speaker of the House.

Pittsburgh native and Pulitzer Prize winning historian David McCullough reports that a college student recently asked him "besides Harry Truman and John Adams" which American presidents has he interviewed?

A study by the Center for Information and Research on Civil Learning & Engagement at Tufts University has found that most states do not emphasize civic education, which includes learning about citizenship, government, law, current events and related topics. Only nine states require the teaching of civics.

The study also points out that since 2000, social studies assessments have shifted from a combination of multiple-choice and performance tasks — like essays — to almost exclusively multiple-choice exams.

The shift away from civic education over the past decade can be partially attributed to federal policies like No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top. According to CIRCLE, recent research suggests states have shifted educational resources away from social studies toward subjects that appear on statewide assessments.

Chamber business series

The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce recently launched its Keystone Business Series. The series is a set of programs that provide tools to businesses.

The series started with a program on Access to Capital in cooperation with Small Business Administration.

"We are excited to offer a variety of programs aimed at growing small, diverse business here in Central Pennsylvania", said Chamber President and CEO Harry Young. "Our chamber affords businesses the opportunity to connect with a broad local and national network of companies seeking to engage the LGBT community."

The series will provide opportunities for entrepreneurs and companies to engage with one another.

"There are countless businesses in our region and throughout America seeking to do business in the LGBT community, whether targeting the LGBT market or engaging Certified LGBT Business Enterprises in corporate procurement", Young stated. "Our programs are aimed at connecting business leaders with knowledge and opportunities that will enable them to grow and flourish locally."

New HIV programs launched

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center has launched new programs for people living with HIV.

The center now provides non-medical supportive services to people living with HIV at no cost if financially qualified.

LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

"We are committed to supporting the needs of people in our community living with HIV, especially those living with low and moderate incomes who may not have access to care in other spaces," said Adrian Shanker, center executive director. "These programs ensure that services are available to people who need it the most."

Atticus Ranck, the center's Health Programs & Supportive Services Manager, says emotional support helps to reduce social isolation and leads to healthier lives for people living with HIV. We are proud to be able to offer these new services for our community."

Unions and LGBT equality

Historian James Young recently spoke about his new book *Union Power: The United Electrical Workers in Erie, Pennsylvania*. He was joined by Todd Mealy who talked on *This Is the Rat Speaking,* his book on Black Power and Lancaster's Franklin and Marshall College. Here are highlights of LGBT union activity:

California nurses demanded dignity for their patients when the HIV crisis first ravaged the gay community. Janitors in New York stood up for healthcare equality. Public workers in Pennsylvania currently continue to fight for workplace non-discrimination ordinances. Employment protections have been introduced seven times over 14 years in Pennsylvania. United Parcel Service Inc.'s union employees were the first to negotiate for domestic partner benefits.

Donna Cartwright and Gabriel Haaland, co-founders of the transgender caucus of Pride @ Work, AFL-CIO, initiated a path-breaking effort to enlist labor's support in ending discrimination against trans people in healthcare coverage. Today, in 29 states a union contract is still the only legal protection many workers have from discrimination based on sexual orientation, and in 33 states for gender identity and expression.

Political Updates From page 3

FED EQUALITY ACT RE-INTRODUCED

EQUALITY

Sponsored by United States Representative David Cicilline (D-Rhode Island) and United States Senators Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), and Cory Booker (D-New Jersey), the federal Equality Act bill seeks to explicitly ban discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBT) people in federal law. The legislation would also include protections against sex discrimination in laws regarding public accommodations and federal funding. "Everyone, regardless of who they are or the person they love, deserves equal protection under the law. Despite the significant progress we've made toward equality in the last decade, the Trump Administration's attacks on LGBT people shows just how swiftly many of these hard-fought changes can be rolled back. That is why we need strong federal non-discrimination legislation for LGBTQ people in employment, housing, education, public accommodations, publicly funded programs, access to credit, and jury service," said Rea Carey, Executive Director, National LGBTQ

HRC TURNS DOWN BANK OF AMERICA MONEY

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT rights group has rejected $325,000 in Bank of America sponsorships to protest the role bank executives played in brokering a replacement for North Carolina's anti-gay House Bill 2. The Human Rights Campaign also slashed its Corporate Equality Index scores for the bank and for Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, which also took part in the talks. The score measures corporate support for policies that affect LGBT employees. Andrea Smith, the bank's chief administrative officer, and Charles Bowman, the North Carolina market president, were part of a small group of business leaders who helped negotiate the bill that repealed HB2 – known as "the bathroom bill." The new measure, HB 142, prevents local governments from enacting LGBT protections for four years.

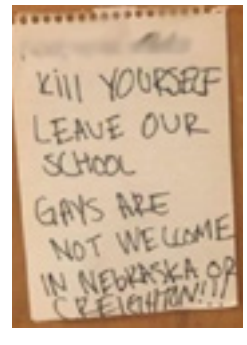
PREGNANT TEEN BARRED FROM GRADUATION

A Boonsboro MD high school senior was recently barred from participating in her school's graduation ceremony because she is pregnant. Media outlets reported 18-year-old Maddi Runkles was barred from the June 2 ceremony at the Heritage Academy in Hagerstown because she violated the school's code of conduct by having premarital sex. Runkles discovered she was pregnant in January. After the pregnancy became known, officials at the small private Christian school suspended Runkles for two days and removed her from her student council position. Runkles' father once sat on the Heritage board and recused himself from decisions involving his daughter. But he ultimately quit the board to protest how she was treated.

TEXAS HOUSE PASSES "BATHROOM BILL"

The Texas House has voted on a bill that will keep transgender public school children from using the restroom that matches their gender identity. The measure, a Republican deal on the "bathroom bill," passed the GOP-dominated chamber by a vote of 91-50. It needs one more vote to officially pass the House. If the Senate agrees to the measure, and Gov. Greg Abbott doesn't veto it, Texas will become the second state in the nation to pass such legislation. Debate was emotional and divisive, with Democrats likening it to a Jim Crow-era attack on defenseless kids and Republicans insisting the measure did not single out or target anyone.

UNIVERSITY INVESTIGATES ANTI-GAY NOTE



In a letter to Creighton students, faculty and staff, the university president said an investigation is underway into an anti-gay note reportedly found on a residence hall door. The note begins with an expletive and a gay slur, then says "kill yourself leave our school gays are not welcome in Nebraska or Creighton."

"The content of the note violates Creighton's policy on student, staff and faculty conduct and, more crucially, is not at all representative of the environment we desire as a University," wrote Creighton University President Rev. Daniel Hendrickson. Hendrickson continued: "The incident is a breach of the Jesuit values we all share as the Creighton community, values which bind us all in the common mission of ensuring Creighton is a safe, respectful, inclusive place for learning..." The letter says Creighton's Office of Equity and Inclusion has been investigating the letter since a student reported it. The note has been circulating on social media for the past two days.All New York City Schools to Get

SINGLE-STALL BATHROOM IN NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every New York City public school must install at least one single-stall restroom under a new policy announced by Chancellor Carmen Farina. Farina said the restrooms will be available in all city schools by January 2018. School officials say the single-stall bathrooms will support the privacy needs of transgender students and students with medical conditions and disabilities. Information on the bathroom initiative will be sent home to parents in students' backpacks.

STROUDSBURG NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center applauds the borough of Stroudsburg, Monroe County, PA on passage of their non-discrimination ordinance last night. The ordinance passed with a bipartisan 4-3 vote. This represents the first LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination ordinance in Monroe County. Liz Bradbury, Director of The Training Institute at Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, provided testimony at the council meeting. "Far too many LGBT Pennsylvanians still fear discrimination because most Pennsylvanians live without laws to protect them from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation based on their sexual orientation or gender identity." She stated that the state legislature should follow Stroudsburg's lead and fully protect the rights of LGBT Pennsylvanians.

Our pride
is showing
because we have a
new website!
theCentralVoice.com

Want to make sure your medical wishes are followed?

By The Central Voice

"The PA POLST form provides for a standardized format and language," explains Gil Brown, CEO, Hospice of Central PA. POLST stands for Physician's Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment.

Brown tells *The Central Voice*, "The form is a wonderful way for individuals to make known their wishes when it comes to life sustaining medical treatment". Legislation strengthening the form – basically changing the form from a Medical Directive to a Medical Order – "bolsters a patient's wishes," Brown says.

The bolstering for end-of-life planning may take a step forward with legislation recently introduced by state Rep. Bryan Cutler with state Rep. David S. Hickernell, serving districts in Lancaster county.

PA Senate Bill 623 and House Bill 1196 allow for a voluntary process that turns patient goals and preferences for end-of-life care into medical orders, as referred to by Brown. Essentially, the twin bills establish the means by which patients can change a Medical Directive to a Medical Order, called Physician's Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment or POLST.

"The compelling reason for support of the bills is to establish a recognized, standardized tool for documentation of individuals' end-of-life care wishes," Brown says.

Use of the new procedure is recommended for people in their last year of life. To activate a patient's wishes, a doctor must authorize the form.

The legislation would also allow ambulance crews to follow POLST, which they currently can't, and give legal immunity to health care providers who follow POLST.

Dr. Joan Harrold, medical director at Hospice & Community Care, says POLST "is a proven tool to help people direct their health care to live the way they want — and avoid things that they don't want — when they are seriously ill or quite frail in the last year or so of life."

The legislation is endorsed by the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

Dr. Leon Kraybill, chief of the geriatric division at Lancaster General Health, and Margaret Costella, general counsel for Lancaster General Hospital, helped to devvelop the legislation.

"There is a perception that these discussions are morbid," Kraybill said, but he's found the opposite, with people showing "satisfaction, contentment, relief" when they have their wishes documented for providers.

POLST, Kraybill said, "is a vehicle to elicit the wishes of the individual based on discussion and understanding of health condition, and a way to document and share those wishes with loved ones, medical providers, and caregivers."

Dr. Lauren J. Van Scoy, who works in the intensive care unit at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, said documents are important, but the process of communicating values and wishes that guide treatment decisions is even more vital.

"The most valuable thing you can do is talk to your family," she said. "Talking about what you want is important to reduce their stress and burden at the end of life. It's a gift to your family because 70 percent of end-of-life decisions are made by family members."

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POLST BOLSTERS PATIENT'S FINAL WISHES

Advance Directive does little to protect you from unwanted emergency care

The Physician's Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) is a relatively new document that states a person's end-of-life wishes. The paradigm is creating quite a buzz in the medical community and is showing a lot of promise in ensuring a patient's wishes are followed.

Until now, a person could implement an Advance Directive to state what their wishes would be at the end of their life.

An Advance Directive generally contains information about a person's desire to be mechanically ventilated, artificially fed, and his desire for comfort care. However, an Advance Directive does little to protect a person from unwanted emergency medical care like CPR or transfer to a hospital. A person would need to have a separate Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNR) to protect him from unwanted chest compressions, electrical shocks, and artificial breathing.

With the use of a POLST paradigm, emergency and medical personnel have clear orders on which actions to take in the event of an emergency based on the patient's wishes. It includes the patient's desire to have or refuse CPR, to be taken to a hospital, and whether to receive artificial nutrition. The paradigm can follow a person wherever he goes; it's valid at home, in a nursing home, a long-term care facility, and in the hospital.

What Does the POLST Include?

The POLST paradigm has three or four sections (depending on the state) in which a person can choose his or her desired medical intervention:

CPR - A person can choose to have cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) attempted. Choosing this option means choosing "Full Treatment" in section B. Alternatively, a person can choose to "Allow Natural Death," also known as Do Not Attempt Resuscitation.

Medical Interventions - A person has three choices of the degree of medical interventions they would like. The first choice is "Comfort Measures Only" which means providing only care that would relieve pain and suffering. Choosing this option means that the person would only be transferred to a hospital if suffering couldn't be relieved at home.

The second choice is "Limited Additional Interventions" which includes comfort care from the first choice but may also include intravenous (IV) fluids and antibiotics. There is an option to elect NOT to be transferred to a hospital unless suffering cannot be relieved at home.

The third choice is "Full Treatment." Choosing this option means that the person wants comfort care, IV fluids, antibiotics, CPR, and all other intensive medical care including transfer to a hospital.

There is a line for in this section for any additional orders. Patients may decide with their physician to limit the type of IV medications used or might choose to be specific regarding the type of breathing support they want.

Antibiotics - This section allows patients to determine when and if antibiotics should be used to treat infections.

Artificially Administered Nutrition - This section allows a person to state their wishes about being fed artificially, typically through a nasogastric (NG) tube for short-term feeding or through agastric tube (inserted through the skin into the stomach) for long-term feeding. The choices include "No artificial nutrition by tube," which is pretty clear, "Defined trial period of artificial nutrition by tube" which usually means feeding artificially for a short time to see if there is improvement in their condition, or "Long-term artificial nutrition by tube" which would typically be done through a gastric tube.

How is the POLST Different than an Advance Directive?

An Advance Directive is designed to give instructions on desired medical interventions once a person has already had emergency treatment -- usually directed towards hospital or nursing home staff. The POLST is designed to instruct emergency personnel on what actions to take while you're still at home.

Who Needs to Sign a POLST?

In all states where the POLST is accepted and legal, a patient or their legal healthcare decision maker needs to sign the form.

A physician must also certify that the decision the patient is making is consistent with his current medical condition. For example, if a healthy 30-something-year-old woman, such as myself, requested to Allow Natural Death, Comfort Measures Only, and No Artificial Nutrition, my physician would (hopefully) not sign the form. In some states, a nurse practitioner (NP) or a physician's assistant (PA) may legally sign the form.

Anyone who has a chronic or life-limiting illness or anyone with advanced age should consider having a POLST document. To find out if your state accepts and uses the POLST paradigm, visit the POLST website.

To download the POLST form, please visit thecentralvoice.com

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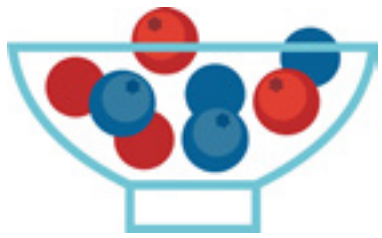

A HEALTHIER YOU

A daily checklist of wellness tips

Most of us hear the term wellness and assume that it's something beyond our reach. Or perhaps we think that wellness is only for advanced yogis, holistic doctors, or wellness practitioners, but not us — not everyday people just working the daily grind and living busy lives. But this is where we make the mistake.

Wellness is nothing more than small daily choices that lead up to lifelong, very big changes — that's it. It simply starts with one choice after another. Here's how to choose wellness one day at a time:

1. Eat Berries with Breakfast

Berries are an incredible food, rich in nutrients. They're also a fresh source of produce and keep us fuller than processed cereals with dried fruits. Add 1/2 cup of frozen or fresh berries to either a smoothie, oatmeal, or just have some with some unsweetened coconut yogurt and a little chia or flax seeds.

2. Eat One Green Food Per Day

Eating one green vegetable per day or one leafy green is a great way to get yourself healthier. It can be a cup of broccoli at dinner or spinach snuck into a smoothie. A cup of green beans at dinner or some leafy kale tossed with chopped sweet potato and some simple seasonings. Anything counts, just make sure it's green, natural, and from the earth.

3. Drink Water When You Wake Up

A new health practice that many observe, drinking water is essential to hydrating your body first thing in the day after a night long fast. It helps wake you up and is an excellent way to flush out your body first thing to keep you regular, a key part of staying healthy. Remember, your body contains (and needs) more water than most of us realize. Be sure you're giving it enough, starting first thing — even before the coffee!

4. Enjoy Plain Coffee and Tea

Coffee and tea are two of the most amazing sources of antioxidants in our diet, so long as they're sustainably (preferably) organically sourced, so they're produced without pesticides.These two beverages boost mental health, liver health, and promote a healthy heart. The key is to leave out the sugar and milk, which takes away most all their benefits.

5. Cook Your Own Meals

Cooking at home does two things: It puts you in touch with the food that you're using to keep you well and it keeps you away from restaurant options that someone else prepared for you, probably using ingredients that aren't the best for you (excess oil, salt, sugar, etc.). Leave out the middleman and cook more at home, even if that means preparing simple meals such as soup or salad, or even some smoothies with oatmeal for a fun breakfast-for-dinner option.

6. Use Herbs Instead of All the Salt

Instead of shaking salt on all your food, try using herbs to flavor them instead. For breakfast, use cinnamon, cardamom and ginger for a sweet and spicy flavor. For lunch, use Italian seasonings, sage, black pepper, and/or cayenne and turmeric. For dinner, try some garam masala, pepper, oregano, basil, and thyme. Mix these up however you like, but use them more often; they're some of the best ingredients that provide antioxidants, mood-boosting benefits, and even anti-cancer benefits. They also reduce blood pressure levels, unlike excess salt that can lead to hypertension (chronically high blood pressure).

7. Ditch the Sugary Food

Sugary foods are not part of a healthy diet, mostly because they're processed, void of nutrients, and can be addicting. Instead of choosing something with sugar, have an apple, some berries, a banana, an orange, or just enjoy sweet veggies like carrots instead. Your body will learn to love the taste of fresh vegetables and fruits when you give it a chance.

ALL FOR HEALTH
Let's remember that being healthy isn't a goal, it's a lifestyle.
So let's run a little faster, eat a little better, sleep a little longer, aim a little higher, love a little more, and day by day, get a little happier. And let's take pride in our health. Highmark is proud to support the LGBTQ community. Let's do it all for health.
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The fight isn't over

Lesbian Avenger co-founder inventories her many lives

The first feeling we had was that as lesbians we were invisible to the public...Yet we had done so much in solidarity with other groups around women's health.

By Frank Pizzoli

As author and co-founder of the 90s activist organization, The Lesbian Avengers, Anne-christine d'Adesky's addresses the legacy of 1990s radical lesbian activism, too often overshadowed by the work of gay men during that era.

Out June 1, her new book, *The Pox Lover*, coincides with the Avengers' 25th anniversary, a celebration that features a digital exhibition called Avenger 25, a national touring exhibit, up now at the NYC Bureau of General Services until NYC Pride, June 25. The exhibit also shows in LA (Lesbians to Watch Out For) at Plummer Park during the month of June and in San Francisco at the GLBT Historical Museum on June 20. She is also mobilizing with Bay Area Queer Anti-fascist Network, an organization she founded, on a Chechnya #100 Vigil Action in the Castro.

A pioneering American AIDS journalist, lesbian activist, and daughter of French-Haitian elites, d'Adesky draws from her journals. The book careens wildly and thoughtfully, like her, from NYC to Paris, from DC to Haiti. She inventories the many lives she lived while fighting vociferously for social justice issues known as Intersectional today but not named so then. Most notably, she was a member of ACT UP/NY and ACT UP/Paris and reflects on the lives of comrades lost during the early plague years, "the poxed generation" of AIDS. A common affliction of those with AIDS was Kaposi's sarcoma, a cancer that left disfiguring lesions all over one's body, a modern-day pox.

As I speak with d'Adesky, she is settling into a new house on the Left Coast, having downsized and relocated from NYC. Half the boxes around her are full of books. She now has three teenage children, age 16, 18, and 19, all in college at the same time. Her voice is as energetic as it was 20 years ago when she was an editor giving me writing assignments.

Gore Vidal remarked that each time we remember something we are remembering the last time we thought of the event. Our memory has multiple layers, a palimpsest.

The book was a way of going back through my diaries. Thinking back to those days and the words I had written then. Trying to understand what happened then and present it to readers now. Doing so I also wanted to continue the conversations that we all had then. I'm hoping readers will think about where they were as I chart my way through my own life events. Readers' moments in time are as important as mine.

What sparked the founding, with others, of the Lesbian Avengers?

The first feeling we had was that as lesbians we were invisible to the public. We had issues – health, political, economic – that we dealt with but were not part of the public dialogue. Yet we had done so much in solidarity with other groups around women's health. We'd been vital parts of The Feminist Movement, ACT UP, peace movements. The time came for us to advocate for ourselves. But we also wanted to have some fun. We wanted to poke fun at the old stereotypes of lesbian separatism. Poke fun at the angry lesbian. We intentionally chose the D word, dyke. All of our public activity was a way of empowering ourselves. We had so much experience at movement organizing and politics that we began applying what we learned to ourselves. Why sleep? There was so much work to do.

Humor helped you survive the 90s? Dancing too?

Oh absolutely. The Avengers would do things like create a huge bed and go down NYC's Fifth Avenue. With lesbians romping all over the bed. We wanted intentionally to be cheeky and have fun. We had learned so much from the ACT UP visuals that later helped us to show lesbian sexuality in a public way. And I still go dancing all night long!

When protease inhibitors for the treatment of HIV became available in late 1995, early 1996, that was a turning point?

We called it the Lazarus Effect, people rose up from their sick beds, able to begin healing now that the combination of three HIV medicines could successfully attack the virus and reverse its effects. Before that time, AIDS was a death sentence. I remember my dear friend Kiki Mason in the book. He wrote a regular column called "Life" for Poz magazine in the early days, 1994 forward, on his deteriorating condition. Once he wrote "I'm not dying; I'm being murdered. I am being sold down the river by people within this community who claim to be helping people with AIDS." Kiki was intense in his ways and that's what makes him unforgettable.

In interviews with John Waters, he's said "What's wrong with these kids today? Not getting married and not serving in the Army are what made being gay so much fun!" Assimilation versus Outaw?

Nothing wrong with assimilation but it leaves behind the rest of us who maybe don't want to be like everyone else. The fight isn't over. Critical issues remain that the LGBT community must address – race, class, religion – within our own ranks and in the larger community. These issues affect all of us negatively, queer and non-queer, alike.

Although she did not win France's last presidential election, Marine Le Pen, daughter of Jean-Marie Le Pen, founder of France's far-right wing Front National party, raised hackles because of her gay male supporters.

Privileged, gay men in France crafted a very effective image for her. It is a failure of the French left to not have attracted more of the gay community into its ranks. As I said in a recent *Advocate.com* editorial, the election reveals evolving French LGBTQ attitudes and the movement for LGBTQ rights. It's not a monolithic community. Many French gay voters have shifted right. (Estimates are that as many as 20% of US LGBTQ voters voted for President Trump.) The whole phenomena invites the question: What relationship does sexual orientation have to progressive values, here in the US and abroad?

European LGBTQ activists have called out ambitious gay pols who've jumped on board the National Front's ticket at local levels. They've done so, in part, because the Left parties, including the fractured Socialist Party, remain homophobic and slow to support LGBTQ candidates as well as women. As with Trump, the pro-Le Pen LGBTQ vote reflects a rejection of failed establishment political parties.

What to make of US Trump and French Le Pen voters?

I ask the question: Are the polished, French conservative gays vying to be local mayors all racist, fascist, self-hating closet cases? Some may be, but most consider themselves to be socially progressive and fiscally conservative: mainstream Log Cabin types. US and French conservative gays view their nations' economic malaise and the issue of unchecked immigration and ISIS bombings as more politically urgent than the right to marry or Congress passing a federal anti-discrimination act. In France, as perhaps in the US, they don't know their Muslim and Arab neighbors, they feel alienated in their fast-changing mixed neighborhoods and the world at-large, and they worry about ISIS bombs.

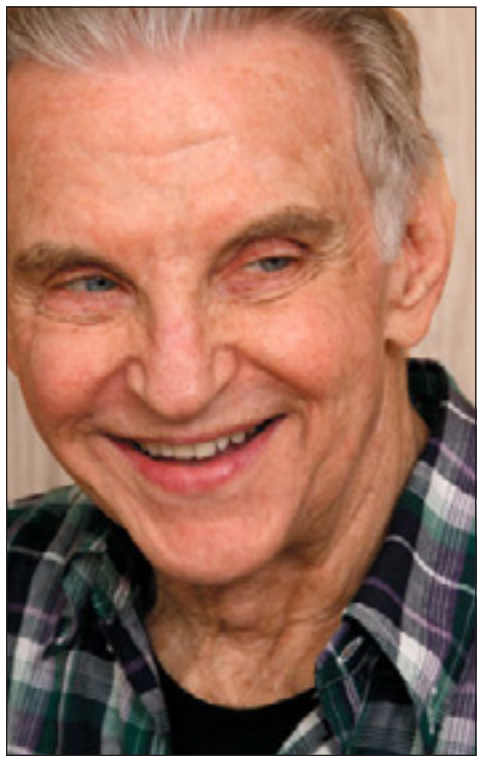
As is often the case, an ostracized group is frequently defined by their oppressors. How they view themselves takes shape as they react to oppression. Perhaps that's what's happening now among LGBTQ groups here and in France.

Trump?

The day after Trump was elected president I started the Bay Area Queer Anti-fascist Network - facebook.com/antifabayarea. We have fifteen hundred members. We put out posters and memes that are quick work bringing attention to various issues.

Jews, Queers, Germans

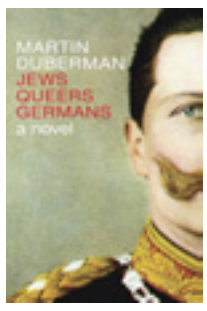
Martin Duberman dishes a clever mix of history and novel



By Frank Pizzoli

It is remarkable how much we have changed and how much we have remained the same. Arguments made 100 years ago about the nature of human sexuality – and homosexuality – continue today.

Without history there is no freedom. And the history that Martin Duberman masterfully unravels in *Jews, Queers, Germans* is remarkable for the territory covered.



He calls the book a novel/history, a mixture of documented history in novel form that is a gripping read. "I never invent anything that is contrary to the known record," Duberman tells *The Central Voice*. Duberman is refreshingly honest. "I had a lot of angst writing this book, thinking about how it might be received by traditional historians".

The book opens with Margarethe, wife of Fritz Krupp, who made all of Germany's armaments during World War I and therefore vital to Germany's interests as Europe unravels. She is informing Kaiser Wilhelm II that her husband's affairs with comely teenage boys is moving from whispers to headlines. Eventually there's a salacious trial, much like the 1895 Oscar Wilde case.

"I started with Magnus Hirschfeld but the more I got into the period the more I became intrigued with several others," Duberman explained. To tell the entire story, Duberman convenes Count Harry Kessler, Walter Rathenau, and Prince Philipp of Eulenburg.

Regarding Kaiser Wilhelm "There has never been consensus that he was gay. There has been reporting on contemporary speculation about his relationships," he says. Kaiser Wilhelm was a member of the infamous Eulenburg group and consequently became embroiled in the Eulenburg Affair, the biggest domestic affair between the formation of the Reich in 1871 and the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II in 1918. Prince Philipp, whom Wilhelm called "my bosom friend... the only one I have," was accused of homosexuality and almost immediately fell in disgrace and lost all his influence on German policy.

I've always been interested in my historical characters' feelings, relationships, and fantasies, their whole psychology. I've always been intrigued with the story part of the story. And what grabs me I write about," Duberman says. "And I do think that for the people I'm writing about there is a lot of camp. The tone of irony has long been part of the gay subculture." The 353 pages are lush with descriptions of internecine love affairs, tailors who craft military uniforms with exquisite gaydar. Testimony during Krupp's trial by a soldier about his wearing white tights and black boots makes a reader's eyes roll.

The historical characters Duberman selected were precursors to today's dialogues.

Hirschfeld, founder of the Scientific Humanitarian Committee, thought he could identify homosexuals by their distinguishing effeminate qualities. Although that's true for some guys (and so what) that's not true of all (and not all effeminate guys are gay). And that's the point: No maxim about human sexuality or behavior is universal.

In opposition to Hirschfeld, The Community of the Special butched it up by promoting the masculine, Greek ideal. Perhaps they were extraordinarily insecure about who they loved. Men of all sexualities overcompensate for many reasons.

Next came The League of Human Rights, a home for Conservative homosexuals like our current CPAC, the Conservative Political Action Conference. Some CPAC members today (as were some League members?) are transgender. Transgender Conservative activists Jennifer Williams and Jordan Evans caused a stir when last February they attended CPAC. The annual event has been home to Ronald Reagan, Sarah Palin, and President Donald Trump. CPAC's web site hails itself as the "birthplace of modern conservatism" and the conference as an "Activism Boot Camp". Williams said in a recent interview she became a Conservative "because of Jimmy Carter and the Iran Hostage Crisis."

Also in a recent interview, Gina Roberts, chair of the San Diego Log Cabin Republicans, a chapter of the nation's largest gay GOP political organization said, "I believe Conservative principles are more closely aligned with the intent of the US Constitution. Conservatism leads to smaller, less invasive government."

It is remarkable how much we have changed and how much we have remained the same. Arguments made 100 years ago about the nature of human sexuality–and homosexuality–continue today.

"People have not changed in the 100 years since all of this has taken place. The political environments in which they operate have changed but not the people," Duberman observes. For example, Kaiser Wilhelm's had many unappealing qualities: "his adolescent humor, his harshness, his inability to listen; his pretension to knowledge and wisdom he doesn't possess; his assumption of infallibility in all matters…his limited attention span…"

Trump?

"Well, I started writing the book in 2015 much before the Trump phenomena. And it turns out there's lots that resonates with a person like President Trump. He and Wilhelm represent petulant boys, spoiled bullies," Duberman says.

One chilling coincidence is when in 1923 Hitler tried to take over Germany's Ruhr district using the slogan "Make Germany Great Again." His efforts were fueled by German perceptions that the nation was being disgraced by the conditions of the Versailles Treaty. The political scenario sounds alarmingly like Trump's claims that our trade agreements and treaties make chumps of the US. And he alone can fix the problem.

Paragraph 175, the section of the German legal code which criminalized homosexuality, figures into the story. The infamous section of law resembles today's anti-transgender "bathroom bills" aimed at making self-expression illegal. Opposing propaganda machines worked hard to make linkages. "Groups tried to link Nazis to homosexuals, Jews to homosexuals," Duberman explains. Attempts to link opponents to homosexuals resembles current "The Gay" conspiracy theories about the gay community's plan to take over, well, everything. Interestingly enough, during the years before Joseph Stalin took over from Vladimir Lenin, Russia had begun the process of decriminalizing homosexuality. Today in Chechnya there are horrible rumors of homosexuals being rounded up, beaten, killed.

The old guilt by association trick used decades later by the US House Un-American Committee (HUAC) against State Department officials makes appearances in the book.

Then, like now, who is and who isn't "homosexual" – and what that means still fuels debate. Maybe RuPaul said it best when he told *The New Yorker* – we're all born naked and it's all drag from then on.

Duberman said in a previous interview "As I get older I get still more radical" And he confirms that, "Yes that's still true. Strange but true".

He may be getting more radical but not slowed down. April 22 he assembled two panels to discuss Beyond Marriage and Beyond Equality, leading fellow scholars and activists in provocative discussions that examined recent LGBT political advancements - and the cultural price paid for assimilation. Duberman anticipates writing Taking Stock: Has the Gay Movement Failed? but not before releasing The Rest of It, the third and final memoir. "I've chronicled my whole life and now here's the rest of it," he said.

For readers who want to revisit or Duberman virgins, there is *The Martin Duberman Reader,* a compilation of his most important writings that gives readers an overview of our times. His essays provide a new generation of activists, scholars, and readers benchmark understandings of what has come before us. For five decades, Duberman has tackled the complex and the inconvenient and produced definitive biographies (Paul Robeson, Lincoln Kirstein, and Howard Zinn), essays, books, plays, reviews, and commentary. He founded the nation's first graduate program in LGBT studies and is well known for his book Stonewall, close up portraits of six participants of the event that gave birth to the modern gay movement.

William M. Hoffman, playwright who put AIDS on center stage, dies

William M. Hoffman, a playwright who forced theatergoers to confront the stigma and agony of AIDS with his play "As Is," died April 29 at the age of 78. He is survived by his husband William Russell Taylor II, who said the apparent cause was cardiac arrest.

Hoffman, who cultivated gay authors as an editor and anthologist, was also celebrated as the librettist of composer John Corigliano's opera "The Ghosts of Versailles."

When "As Is" premiered in New York City in 1985, scientific knowledge of AIDS was in its infancy. Few treatments existed to halt its deadly course. In the cultural realm, there were few literary works to guide patients, their loved ones and the public to understand the epidemic erroneously known at the time as the "gay cancer."

Hoffman, who memorialized individual AIDS patients by listing their names in playbills, said his purpose in writing "As Is" was to "show that there are people involved in this catastrophe — not numbers."

"In every death there are people," he told the *New York Times* in 1985. "It's not 'they.' It's 'we.'"

The play was co-produced by the Glines, a gay theater production company, and the Circle Repertory Company and quickly moved to Broadway. It starred Jonathan Hogan as Rich, a novelist newly diagnosed with AIDS, and Jonathan Hadary as his abidingly devoted former lover Saul, who accepts the dying Rich "as is."

The play was a product of intense study — and intense suffering — by Hoffman. He said of those days he went to "memorial service after memorial service," often wondering: "Who's going to be next? Am I?"

To better understand the experience of AIDS patients, he attended support groups where he alone was not suffering from the disease.

"Of one group I attended, everyone is now dead," Hoffman told *The Washington Post* in 1987. "At the same time my father and my uncle were dying [not of AIDS] and my cat was dying too. I was surrounded by death and dying — and at the same time by life…The play was my therapy."

The play proved therapeutic for viewers, as well.

...and under the heading of small world

By Frank Pizzoli

In 2005 my telephone rang. It was playwright Doric Wilson inviting me and our mutual friend Elliot Cohan, whom he'd lost track of, to a reprise of his *And He Made a Her*. The NYC Arts Council wanted to recreate Off-Off Broadway theatre in the locations and in the order plays and performance pieces were actually presented. That meant Wilson's play would begin the two-year long series in a basement theatre in the Cornelia Street Café, 29 Cornelia Street.

Wilson's play was actually first presented at the storied Caffe Cino, 31 Cornelia Street in a space now rededicated. Joe Cino (1931 – 1967), was an Italian-American theatrical producer and café-owner. The beginning of the Off-Off-Broadway theatre movement is generally credited to have begun at his Caffe Cino opened in 1958.

Wilson's Caffe Cino colleagues were Edward Albee, Lanford Wilson, and the Circle Repertory Theatre crowd. He is known as the Father of Off-Off Broadway.

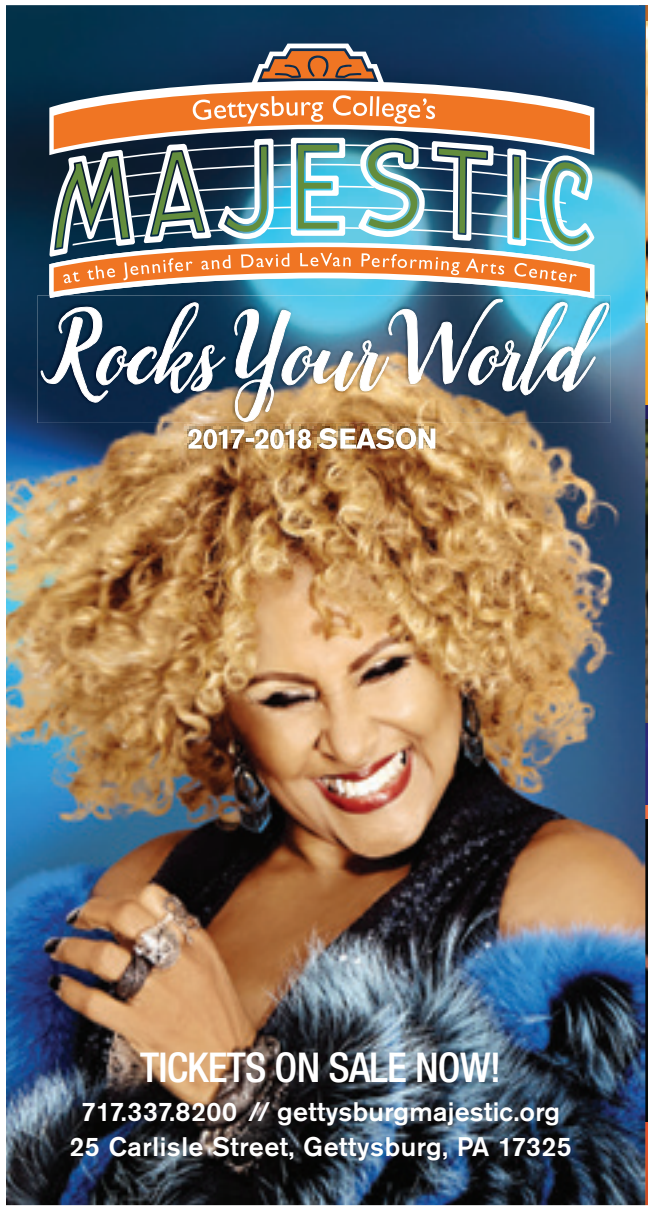
Wilson was present on June 28, 1969, when riots broke out at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village. The rebellion of the bar's gay denizens against harassing police is generally recognized as having signaled the beginning of the gay rights movement.

In 1974, Doric Wilson, along with Billy Blackwell, Peter del Valle and John McSpadden, formed TOSOS (The Other Side of Silence), the first professional theatre company to deal openly and honestly with the gay experience.

William H. Hoffman figures into the story when Wilson had arranged for him to clandestinely listen to the play through an old-fashioned telephone held up by a stage hand in the wing. He was in LA and could not travel East. "Would you do me a favor tomorrow morning?" he asked. Of course. "Call William and tell him how the play went over. I'm not good until later in the day," Wilson explained. He'd had several mini-strokes recently. Absolutely!

There's more.

Please see **SMALL WORLD**, page **15**



Lake Street Dive
Tuesday, July 11, 2017 // 7:30p.m.

Graham Nash
Tuesday, July 25, 2017 // 7:30p.m.

Red Hot Chilli Pipers
Tuesday, September 26, 2017 // 7:30p.m.

Vienna Boys Choir
Friday, October 13, 2017 // 7:30p.m.

Lonesome Traveler
Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 // 7:30 p.m.

A Christmas Carol
Dec. 9, 10, 13, 14, 16 & 17 // 2:00p.m.
Dec. 9, 10, 16 & 17 // 6:00p.m.
Dec. 8, 15 // 8:00p.m.

Darlene Love
Sunday, February18, 2018 // 3:00p.m.

Cirque Eloize "Saloon"
Wednesday, March 7, 2018 // 7:30p.m.

Dublin Irish Dance
Sunday, March 18, 2018 // 3:00p.m.

My Father's Dragon
Sunday, April 15, 2018 // 3:00p.m.

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Arts & Entertainment

CONSIDER THE FUNCTIONS AND POSSIBILITIES

What do vessels convey?

Susquehanna Art Museum presents Vessels, a juried exhibition that's causing folks to stop and contemplate the many nuances of the word, "vessel". Vessels is on view in the Museum's Lobby Gallery through Aug. 6.

Clearly the jurors who selected the 31 pieces currently on exhibit in "Vessels" were challenged to broaden their personal vision(s) of the implications of the word. Stated juror, Regis Brodie, a seasoned professor of ceramics, " Frankly I expected to see more traditional functional objects in this exhibition. I was surprised, and not unpleasantly, to see the many interpretations artists brought to the challenge of responding to the Vessels theme ."

"Interpreting a given theme is a challenge presented to artist s who enter their work for consideration ", noted Susquehanna Art Museum's Director of Exhibitions, Lauren Nye, who coordinated all aspects of this dynamic juried show. She continued, " Some artists may already have something in their body of work that fits the criteria. Others create a new piece to explore a fluid theme that has multiple interpretations , in this case, the vessel. "

The Vessels call for entries challenged artists to consider the functions and possibilities of a vessel, both visually and conceptually. The submissions were not limited by medium, but open to a wide interpretation of what a vessel can be: a hollow container?; a ship or boat?; a duct or canal?; or something else?

The exploration by this group of artists has resulted in a diverse selection of work in a variety of media. Artists represented in Vessels hail from as near as Midtown Harrisburg and as far as Prague, capital city of the Czech Republic.

Vivi (Dillsburg, PA)
Pure Bright Self, 2017
Ceramic and paper

"I was surprised, and not unpleasantly, to see the many interpretations artists brought to the challenge..."

Lauren Nye,
SAM Director of Exhibitions

A complete viewer's guide to this exhibit is available at the Museum's website: susquehannaartmuseum.org/galleries/vessels/

Gallery hours are Tues. – Sat., 10-5; Sun. noon-5 pm., 1401 North Third Street (Third and Calder Streets) in Midtown Harrisburg. Free parking is available for museum-goers directly behind the museum building at the intersection of Calder and James Streets.

Student art in special exhibition

Students from the past year's art classes are on display in the Art Association of Harrisburg's galleries at 21 North Front Street from until July 20. Also featured are works by Association faculty members in a special exhibition.

Gallery hours for the exhibition are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Mon. – Thurs.; Fri., 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Info: artassocofhbg.com; 717-236-1432

Weaving away...

The Central Voice Eye spied local artist Shawn Maykovich weaving his limbs-and-root installation along Harrisburg's Susquehanna River. "I'm working on it as time permits," he says.

SMALL WORLD:

CV Publisher connects the dots

From page 13

The play he signed for me, a copy of *Street Fight*, about the Stonewall Riots, had originally been cast with David Drake, of Baltimore. Drake is known for the longest-running Off-Broadway play about AIDS – *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me,* an Obie award winner. His movie version of the play opened the region's first LGBT Film Festival which I produced at Harrisburg's Midtown Cinema.

There may not be a *there* there but there's more more.

In the copy of *Street Fight* Wilson signed for me, there's the usual listing of professional and technical people on the project. One is Rob Kilgallen. Here's the part you cannot make up. On a NYC trip with my mother, Frances, she struck up a conversation with him on the top of the Empire State Building. We had drinks. Rob and I dated a bit. (Never did find out if was related to Dorothy KilGallen who mysteriously died the night before she was interview Lee Harvey Oswald's killer Jack Ruby about a JFK conspiracy theory.)

KilGallen was a regular panelist on *What's My Line?* TV show where Random House founder Bennet Cerf was a regular. He is mentioned in Wilson's play. Yes, they knew one another. Later in the evening after his play reprisal, Wilson said, "I have permanent scars from his teeth marks in my thigh." Wilson was also known as a leather top in the underworld of NYC's Chelsea/West Side highway bar scene. I didn't ask to see. *Ready?*

Living upstate, I rented an apartment from Miriam O'Brien. Her daughter Patricia years before had been – *BaDaBing!* – a producer on *What's My Line?*

Go get coffee.

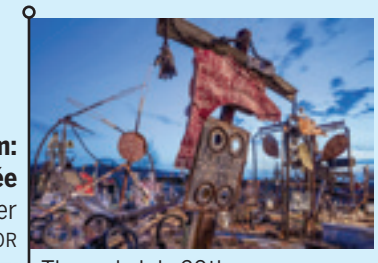
The second person noted in the play's technical crew is Candida Scott Piel. In 2002, she came here on behalf of AmfAR to produce the light show for a party I'd produced at Susquehanna Art Museum, then located in downtown Harrisburg.

It's true what formerly local resident Bob Sevensky often said. "There's only 300 homosexuals in the world and eventually we all meet."

Actor, playwright David Drake, of Baltimore, (the movie Philadelphia, crime series Law & Order), with The Central Voice founding publisher and editor Frank Pizzoli in 2002 at the region's first LGBT Film Festival.

ART Events

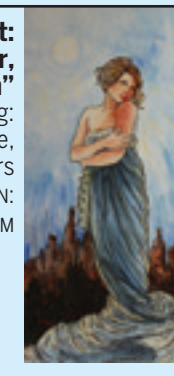
ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG



Sat., July 15th, 5-8 pm:
Italian Lake Soirée
Hosted by: Wendell & Brenda Hoover
$45 IN ADVANCE, $50 AT THE DOOR

Through July 20th:
Art School Annual Exhibition

July 28th-Aug. 31st:
"In Your Face: Humour, Memory & Expression"
Featuring:
Lino-Cuts, Stoneware, Photography & Watercolors
RECEPTION:
FRI., JULY 28TH, 5-8 PM



Sat., July 22nd, 5-8 pm:
Front Street II Soirée
Hosted by: Alex & Kristine Hartzler
$45 IN ADVANCE, $50 AT THE DOOR

Tea Parties In The AAH Garden:
Sun., July 30th & Aug. 27th,
Noon-2 pm
RESERVATIONS: $25

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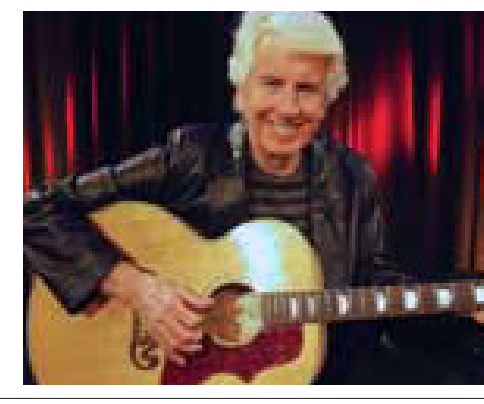
Acclaimed songwriter Aaron Benward hosts an acoustic evening with country music's most successful songwriters telling stories and performing the hit songs they have written. The show mimic's the experience of the historic Bluebird Café in Nashville where songwriters perform their music in an intimate setting, sharing the story behind the song. A singer/songwriter in-the-round show, all of the songwriters that appear on Nashville Unplugged have written hits for country music's hottest acts.
Keith Anderson will be making an appearance during the show to perform and share the stories behind some of his songs. This promises to be a fantastic show for country music fans and fans of music in general! Tickets: 717-214-ARTS (2787)

BIG, THE MUSICAL
Until July 22
Fulton Theatre
A carnival wish granted, young Josh Baskin's dream to become "big" comes true at the hands of the Zoltar machine, and he is immediately thrusted into adulthood. Josh discovers being an adult is not all fun and games when he is forced to find a job and a girlfriend. In the end he learns we must all grow up at our own pace, in our own time. Tickets: Purchased at Theatre, by calling 717-397-7425, or online.

HAIRSPRAY
July 20 - August 5
Ephrata Performing Arts Center - Sharadin Bigler Theatre
The 1950s are out, and change is in the air! Hairspray, winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, is a family-friendly musical, piled bouffant-high with laughter, romance, and deliriously tuneful songs. It's 1962 in Baltimore, and lovable plus-size teen Tracy Turnblad has only one desire – to dance on the popular "Corny Collins Show." When her dream comes true, Tracy is transformed from social outcast to sudden star. She must use her newfound power to dethrone the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob Link Larkin and integrate a TV network... all without denting her 'do! Tickets: (717) 733-7966; epacboxoffice@gmail.com

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL
July 19 - 23
Hershey Theatre
Motown The Musical is the true American dream story of Motown founder Berry Gordy's journey from featherweight boxer to the heavyweight music mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye and so many more. Featuring more than 40 classic hits such as "My Girl" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," Motown The Musical tells the story behind the hits as Diana, Smokey, Berry and the whole Motown family fight against the odds to create the soundtrack of change in America. Motown shattered barriers, shaped our lives and made us all move to the same beat.Tickets: 1-800-745-3000, HersheyTheatre.com



AN EVENING WITH GRAHAM NASH
July 25
Majestic Theatre, Gettysburg College
Legendary singer-songwriter GRAHAM NASH is a two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee-with Crosby, Stills, and Nash and with the Hollies. He was also inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame twice, as a solo artist and with CSN, and he is a GRAMMY Award winner. Info: 717-337-8200; boxofficeinfo@gettysburg.edu

He Read She Read

Frank Pizzoli, The Central Voice's editor and publisher and Yvonne Carmichael, Dauphin County Library columnist give their five top picks

These books were written by authors considered influential, formative, and/or critical in the history of LGBTQ literature.

"I have published interviews with four of my five author choices. My second Edmund White interview will be published this fall in Conversations with Edmund White by University of Mississippi Press."

By Frank Pizzoli

The Fire Next Time
By James Baldwin

1 *I FIRST READ* Baldwin in college (1969-1973) not long after the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, NAACP and the Black Panther Party morphed and evolved in different directions. At age 12, I chose Martin de Porres as my middle name. He was the first African-American to be made a saint by the Catholic Church and is patron saint of those seeking racial harmony. He is noted for his work with the poor. *I am not your Negro*, a recent movie about Baldwin's life, shows us why he remains important. He asked in the 60s what remains today's most important question: Why do some White Americans need Black Americans to hate? What does their need say about those who hate? What does that question mean to anyone who hates? *The Fire Next Time* is two essays originally published *The New Yorker* and *The Progressive*. The first piece is in the form of a letter to his nephew James, a poignant plea that his charge will be able to understand his world, perhaps better than Baldwin did.

A Boy's Own Story
By Edmund White

2 *WHITE, HIS EMINENCE* grise of white gay male authors, has always said the importance of the books written by The Violet Quill, a group of seven gay men who met for about one year to discuss their work, is that they wrote books "for, by and about" gay men with no apologies or even a mention of how they became gay. ABOS is exactly that – White's story. Reading it will prompt others to reflect on their personal history. Those of us who cut the path for today's openness on same-sex issues in the 60s/70s/80s remember well that question asked late into the night – What's your story? Our answers described how we organized our lives so that we could function – work, live, pay taxes, worship, volunteer – and still remain true to love needs of our soul. We should all be nostalgic for our own past. Not because it's better than anyone else's but because it's ours.

Stonewall
By Martin Duberman

3 *DUBERMAN IS AN ENDLESS* font of curiosity. His historical work and three-volume autobiography are trustworthy because he is honest. As a historian, biographer, playwright, and gay rights activist, he scrapes off the bravado so that readers can see what's really there. One of 25 books, his Stonewall is a vivid and detailed portrait of the six individuals whose reaction to police brutality brought us The Stonewall Riots. Duberman captures real lives, the feel of the times. He illustrates how deeply our liberation is rooted in the race, class, and gender injustices of American life.

Minette, a famous drag queen who visited Harrisburg many times to perform, gets a mention. An old boyfriend from my 20s, Bill Miller of Lebanon, made her friendship upon his moving to NYC to sing and dance. Her letters remember him fondly.

In 1991, Duberman founded The Center for LGBTQ Studies (CLAGS) as the first US university-based research center dedicated to the study of historical, cultural, and political issues of vital concern to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals and communities.

Eminent Outlaws: The Gay Writers Who Changed America
By Christopher Bram

4 *CHRISTOPHER BRAM* is to history what cream is to coffee. He makes it better but doesn't change it.

Eminent Outlaws runs from the 50s to the 90s and beyond - Gore Vidal to Edmund White. They are book ends to the uniquely American experience of gay authors who changed our country.

"The gay revolution began as a literary revolution." Bram writes. When the book begins in 1948, homosexuality was illegal in all 48 states. "You couldn't even talk about it. Then right after World War II, a few writers started telling stories about it, fictional accounts because if they had told true stories they'd be open to prosecution, charged with committing crimes," Bram explained in our interview.

He notes that EO "is not meant to be an encyclopedia of all gay writers. I'm just doing a dozen or so writers that enable me to follow the major plotlines of a 50-year period." His Gandhi quotes summarizes our history nicely: "First they ignore you, then they make fun of you, then they attack you, and then you win."

Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS and Survival
By Sean Strub

5 *IN 1996, WHEN* a new class of HIV drugs transformed the disease that before then was a sure death sentence, Strub was emaciated and covered with Kaposi's sarcoma lesions, the scarlet letter of AIDS. He was among the fortunate to return, Lazarus-like, from the brink of death.

Body Counts covers his ACT UP years, founding POZ magazine, the New York of Studio 54 and Andy Warhol's Factory. He was one of a group of activists who clandestinely climbed to the top of Sen. Jesse Helms home in suburban Arlington, VA to cover it from top to bottom with an inflated condom. Helms had been a major obstacle to AIDS legislation. Music mogul David Geffen pressed 30 $100 bills into activist and Treatment Action Group founder Peter Staley's hand on Fire Island. And the caper was off and running. The book is filled with poignant moments of high emotion.

Strub lived in Harrisburg in the early 80s. He was here May 2 to speak on HIV Criminalization at the LGBT Community Center.

"The list covers fiction, memoir, and autobiography from the 20th and 21st century. One author is a well-regarded writer of books for young adults. The list is not inclusive. The titles selected are available in the Dauphin County Library System."

By Yvonne Carmichael

Annie on My Mind
By Nancy Garden

1 *THIS 1982 BOOK* for young adults is about the romantic relationship between two 17-year-old girls and has been included in the School Library Journal in 2000 as one of the top 100 most influential books of the 20th century.

Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas
By Gertrude Stein

2 *THIS 1933 WORK* was written in the guise of an autobiography by Stein's partner, Alice Toklas. The Modern Library ranked the work as one of the 20 great English-language nonfiction titles of the 20th century.

Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic
By Alison Bechdel

3 *ORIGINALLY RELEASED* as a graphic memoir, and later made into a musical, this 2006 title chronicles the author's childhood and growing up in Pennsylvania as well as her relationship with her father. Bechdel is best known as the author of the comic strip, Dykes to Watch Out For, and the book deals with gender roles, sexual orientation, suicide, emotional abuse and dysfunctional family life. Fun Home melds two genres that of comics and memoir. The book garnered notoriety by being on the New York Times Best Seller List, and the musical won the New York Drama Critics' Award for Best Musical and the Tony Award for Best Musical 2014-2015.

The Night Watch
By Sarah Waters

4 *WATERS IS OF WELSH* decent, and the Night Watch is the winner of the 2007 Lambda Literary Award and was short listed for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 2006. Except for one novel, The Little Stranger, all her books contain lesbian themes.

The Price of Salt
By Patricia Highsmith

5 *THE AMERICAN BORN* novelist and short story writer, Highsmith published under the pseudonym of "Claire Morgan". She is credited in this published work of 1952 for writing the first lesbian novel with a happy ending.

IN THE NEWS

Equality PA Executive Director Ted Martin departs

At its board of directors meeting on June 4, 2017, the Board of Directors of Equality Pennsylvania accepted the resignation of Executive Director Ted Martin. Martin's last day with the organization will be June 30, 2017.

"It has been a tremendous honor for me to serve as executive director. I never foresaw myself staying for seven years back in 2010, but I am glad I did," said Martin.

During Martin's seven-year tenure, the organization grew from a small regional operation to a statewide organization. In those years, Pennsylvania changed dramatically for LGBTQ people and Equality PA was the engine that drove many of the battles and efforts and conversations that made great things happen.

"As an organization, Equality Pennsylvania is looked to and respected and that makes all the hard work to get here truly worth it," Martin added. "But even more important for me personally, I've witnessed firsthand how the work that Equality PA does daily improves the lives of LGBTQ people and that ultimately makes Pennsylvania a better place. That alone was worth the stay. I truly will treasure the many friends I have picked-up along the way. I will always be a supporter of Equality PA and I encourage every person out there who believes in fairness to do the same. Thank you for what has been an incredible ride."

"During Ted's seven-year tenure as executive director, Equality PA and its affiliates experienced tremendous growth and helped LGBTQ Pennsylvanians achieve a number of key accomplishments including defending against anti-gay legislation and Constitutional amendments, achieving marriage equality, enacting dozens of non-discrimination ordinances in municipalities across the Commonwealth, and the creation and critical work of our public policy department," said Equality Pennsylvania Board President Jessica Rothchild, DPT of Scranton. "Pennsylvanians now and in the future have much to be thankful for because of Ted's work."

"We want to thank Ted for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors," added Equality Pennsylvania Education Fund Board President Michael Testa of Pittsburgh. "We also

Please see **MARTIN**, page **27**

Leo Dunn, former Voice columnist, honored by PA Bar

The Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Rights Committee recently presented its 2017 David M. Rosenblum GLBT Public Policy Award to Leo L. Dunn, chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.

Dunn is a former *Central Voice* legal columnist.

Dunn received the award May 11 at a joint reception of the PBA Civil and Equal Rights Committee, PBA Commission on Women in the Profession, PBA GLBT Rights Committee, PBA Minority Bar Committee, PBA Senior Lawyers Committee, PBA Solo and Small Firm Practice Section and the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation.

Rosenblum, an active member of the PBA GLBT Rights Committee and a staunch proponent of civil rights, passed away suddenly in 2014. He was a driving force behind the report, "How Marriage Counts: 572 Ways Marriage Counts in Pennsylvania," a joint publication of the PBA GLBT Rights Committee, the Mazzoni Center and Dechert LLP. Rosenblum was the legal director at the Mazzoni Center. The award honors individuals who have effected change resulting in a positive impact for the LGBT community and who have used his or her position of leadership to inspire others to act and promote civil rights and equality.

For more than 26 years, Dunn has served the citizens of the commonwealth in two state agencies. The first openly gay board member of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, Dunn was confirmed to the board by the Senate in 2015 and appointed chairman in 2016 by Gov. Tom Wolf. Prior to his current role, he held positions as director and assistant director of policy and legislative affairs at the Board of Probation and Parole and worked in various positions at the Department of Agriculture, where he was instrumental in the development of the PA Preferred Program, a state-supported agricultural marketing program used to identify and promote food and agricultural products grown, produced or processed in Pennsylvania.

In addition to public practice, Dunn had a solo private practice drafting various planning documents, including wills, powers of attorney and living wills, for LGBT clients and others. He also taught LGBT legal issues as an adjunct professor at Widener University Commonwealth Law School in Harrisburg.

During the five years he served as chair of the PBA GLBT Rights Committee, Dunn focused the committee's efforts on creating a record of the need for marriage equality, recognizing that an educational tool would be the most

Please see **DUNN**, page **27**

Contentment isn't complacency

Making Sense of Life

By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

Do you feel content with your life? Many people have been taught to think of others first, so our desires for contentment can end up on the back burner. It isn't that we should care about doing nice things for other people. But if we don't ever get our own needs met we eventually become that nasty, old, person who lives alone, complains about everything, screams at kids and has too many cats.

UGH!

In this issue, the third episode of our five-part series this year on self-care, the topic is contentment. To attain happiness is a goal to which we strive, though let's face it: Most of the time our happiness can, if we let it, revolve around getting others to do, say or act the way we think they should. Our happiness must come from within and, as I recently found out in a profound way, is more easily obtained when we start from a base of contentment.

Perhaps saying I discovered this in a "profound way" is a bit more dramatic than I might have meant to convey, but it was definitely an "AHA!" moment. For me the situations, experiences and joy I derive from my life doesn't come with a brass band, fireworks, sirens or revolving neon signs – a mirrored ball from a disco on occasions, perhaps, but I digress… More than likely it comes from sitting with a beverage (adult or otherwise) in our gazebo on a cool day, watching the animals and birds that we share our property with play, or reading a novel.

"Let's face it: Most of the time our happiness can, if we let it, revolve around getting others to do, say or act the way we think they should."

It was in one of these situations that I recent found myself. I realized, much to my surprise, that my life felt so very settled in that one special moment; I felt an overwhelming sense of contentment. Then my analytical mind took over and I wondered, Am I experiencing complacency? Why am I satisfied? Don't I want more?

I personally find myself pathetic when I interrupt an amazing experience by questioning it. In that moment of contentment that I was experiencing, I felt deeply what it was like to stop and to appreciate my accomplishments and blessings. In a world that admires accomplishment, we can forget to enjoy the goals we reach. We too often continuing reach for the next goal before stopping to appreciate the accomplishments we have achieved.

We are bombarded with the idea of "more is better." Stores want us to believe we don't have enough of whatever it is they want to sell us. We are encouraged to buy yet another pair of jeans, a different car, or a larger home. The advertising industry is counting on us wanting more. We are assured over and over again that if we buy this widget or get that thingamajig we will be happy. But when is enough ever "enough?"

It's definitely possible. However, when we learn that we are in control, that we are directing our lives, it may not be quite that easy to accept. Why? Because we understand that we have the power to make the changes we desire in our lives.

Change is necessary to reach our goals; we are encouraged to remember we don't have to be stuck in anything. It's then that we might think that being content is a sign of complacency, if only because "this was great, but could it be BETTER?"

While that's not necessarily true, it does bring us back to the question of is enough ever really enough. Madisyn Taylor recently wrote about the topic and said this: If we do not have the ability to be happy with the blessings we have in the here and now, nothing can make us happy in the future.

It's by appreciating our blessings that we can move forward in life. Just because we are aware that we can create a life worth living doesn't mean we have to feel compelled to be working at it all the time. In fact, it's only by stepping aside and allowing the universe do its job that things get done. If we don't celebrate our wins, rejoice in our accomplishments, and appreciate our blessings we will find reaching a goal rather bland.

Instead, consider celebrating your wins. If you find a dime on the sidewalk, rejoice in that additional prosperity, instead of thinking, "Well, it's only a dime. It could have been a quarter." If you want a different home, de-clutter and clean up the one you have and then bask in the beauty you've brought forward.

The more we criticize the more we'll find to complain about. If we celebrate our accomplishments we'll bring our consciousness to a higher level that will make complacency impossible. The question I leave you with for this installment is, Would you be willing to find contentment in your life this week, and then celebrate it?

Terry is an author, speaker, licensed social worker and flight attendant. He is also the director of Spirit, Mind and Body Foundation (spiritmindbody-foundation.org).

PA STATE HOUSE PRAYER POLICY CHALLENGED

Non-believers ask for equal treatment

By Frank Pizzoli

"They should have the same treatment under the law as believers," Andy Nellin, attorney, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, tells *The Central Voice*.

He and Alex Luchenitser are pursuing a lawsuit against the Pennsylvania State House on behalf of American Atheists, and Pennsylvania Nonbelievers, its president Brian Fields, and member Joshua Neiderhiser; Dillsburg Area Freethinkers, its chief organizer Paul Tucker, and member Deana Weaver; and Lancaster Freethought Society and its president Scott Rhoades.

"We're in the discovery phase of the case right now," Nellin says. A trial date is expected sometime in 2018, although "there is required communication between the parties." He adds. "We seek no money damages," Nellin says, "just equal treatment".

Nellin's legal challenge follows Federal District Judge Christopher Conner April 28 ruling that the alliance of "nonbelievers" can proceed with suing the Pennsylvania House of Representatives over its opening invocation policy.

The lawsuit by the alliance of nonbelievers follows two requests to the State House that representatives from the groups deliver an opening invocation to the legislative body. In 2014, Dillsburg Area Freethinkers and the Pennsylvania Nonbelievers requested that they deliver the invocation. They were rejected.

After that rejection, the House changed its rule to require the chaplain to "be a member of a regularly established church or religious organization or shall be a member of the House of Representatives," according to the lawsuit.

2015 requests were also rejected. The second rejection lead to the law suit that argues that the rule change violates their constitutional rights and violates the separation of church and state.

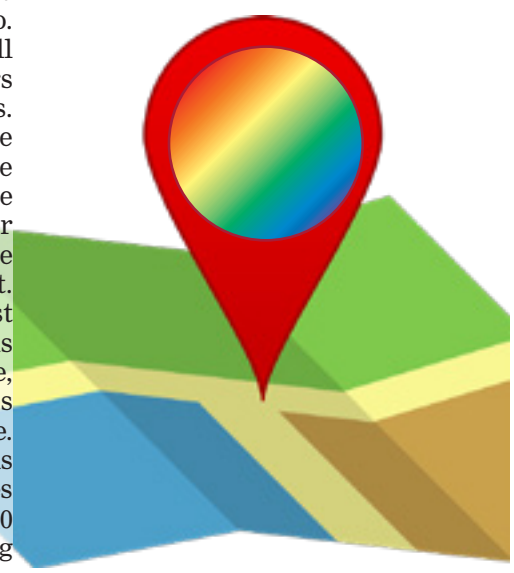
Dillsburg Area Freethinkers and the Pennsylvania Nonbelievers have regularly displayed their message at Central PA Pride Festival.

DC HAS HIGHEST PERCENTAGE, HARRISBURG 4th

Home is where the homos are

The New York Times reports: When the District of Columbia is compared with the 50 states, it has the highest percentage of adults who identify as LGBT, according to Gallup. At 10%, that is double the percentage in the state that ranks No. 2, Hawaii, and nearly triple the overall national average of 3.5%. The numbers are based on Census Bureau figures. The Census Bureau looked at where the highest percentage of same-sex couple households were and also found that the District of Columbia ranked far higher than the 50 states, with 4 percent. The national average is just under 1 percent.

Harrisburg has the fourth highest concentration of same-sex households among cities and boroughs in the state, according to 2010 US Census figures released by UCLA's William's Institute. Three hundred and eighteen households reported themselves as same-sex couples which accounts for 15.45 of every 1,000 couples in the capital city. According to the institute's 2010 Census analysis, 22,336 same-sex couples are living in Pennsylvania, representing 4.5 same-sex couples per 1,000 households.



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GAY AND BI MEN TARGETED FOR DETENTION, TORTURE, MURDER IN CHECHNYA

Who will be protected in an era of government hacking and fake news?

LGBT Community Center Coalition

By Louie Marvin

In March, news surfaced of human rights abuses in Chechnya, where over one hundred gay and bisexual men have been detained, tortured, and at least three have been killed.

Chechnya is a region where human rights violations are severe and long-standing, and obviously didn't just start with recent round of arrests and detentions. Human Rights Watch reports that thousands of people have been kidnapped, tortured, and detained in recent years, including drug users, ethnic minorities, and anyone who could be considered to be an extremist, usually meaning that people in power have some doubt about their politics. Gay and bi men have been targeted as part of these abuses throughout, but what makes the current situation different is the specific focus on gay and bi men.

Police who are conducting the detainment of gay men in Chechnya are finding people using social media channels. Local law enforcement have hacked accounts, for example on social networking sites where men are seeking relationships with other men. Then, when the men are detained, their contacts also become suspects, including people who call them or have a text message history with them. This use of social networks to find people of "nontraditional sexual orientation" means that it doesn't matter to law enforcement whether or not a person is caught being sexual, but that the suspicion of being gay or bi is reason enough to target them.

It's difficult to hear about the hacking of gay Chechens' social media accounts and not make connections to the accusations of Russian hacking related to the U.S. presidential election, and the ongoing information wars taking place in cyberspace, begging questions of who and what can be trusted sources of truth. The development of the Internet has in many ways been positive for LGBT people, because it can facilitate connection in the face of isolation. But what happens when these networks are weaponized toward LGBT people?

One consequence of the hacking is that groups trying to help this situation are not always readily trusted by those they seek to serve, because of an atmosphere of suspicion. The Russia LGBT Network, a non-governmental human rights organization helping gay and bi men flee persecution in Chechnya and find safe harbor elsewhere, has faced challenges reaching the people it is trying to serve. Even representatives in Russia from the Russia LGBT Network have needed to stay anonymous as they reach out to the broader network of human rights activists for coordination and public messaging on this effort.

The Network started receiving letters from people in Chechnya about the detentions sites in April, and they investigated and set up a special hotline to help relocate people. Through mid-May, they were successful in emigrating about 40 people, some of whom had been tortured themselves and some of whom witnessed others being beaten and even killed. The people who have contacted the Network do not know if they can trust it, or if it is a front by the government to identify more gay people, so the fact that some people have gone ahead and reached out anyway demonstrates the desperation on the ground in Chechnya.

Complicating the matters of whosein-formation to trust, Amnesty International reports that Adam Shakhidov, a Counsellor to the Head of Chechnya, publicly accused independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta of lies and described its staff members as "the enemies of our faith and homeland" for their March report on the mass detention of over one hundred men "in connection with their nontraditional sexual orientation, or suspicion of such." Again, this rhetoric should sound familiar to anyone paying attention to current U.S. and global politics, where accusations of "fake news" and media being an enemy of the people have become commonplace.

In this context of hacking, information wars, and "fake news" accusations, what can LGBT people and allies in the U.S. do to support LGBT people in Chechnya, in the face of extreme oppression at the hands of government and deeply-rooted cultural homophobia? There are, of course, no easy answers. Unsurprisingly, activists have looked to social media as part of the solution.

The Russia LGBT Network has called for awareness-raising and international pressure on social media using the hashtag #EyesOnChechnya. Posts utilizing this hashtag should be geared toward pressuring Russian government to investigate and put a stop to the purge, and to get the U.S. and others to offer sanctuary to the victims. So far, this pressure has led so some small successes. Human Rights Watch worked closely with Congress and the Equality Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives on a bipartisan letter with 150 signatures.

Amnesty International invites advocates to use their website to contact Aleksandr Ivanovich Bastrykin, Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation to address the threats made against Novaya Gazeta staff members and ensure that they are investigated promptly, effectively, and impartially in accordance with Article 144 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation regarding the "obstruction of lawful professional activities of journalists."

To be sure, the oppression faced by LGBT Chechens is deeper than contemporary weaponization of social media. But we would do well to deepen our understanding of the intersections of online privacy issues, authoritarian government systems, human rights, and our multi-national LGBT communities.

The mission of the LGBT Center of Central PA is to create common ground for the LGBT community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through educational, cultural, and community activities that foster wholeness.

At publication, Louie Marven served as Executive Director of the LGBT community center coalition

CHECHNYA

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Cruelties in Chechnya lead many people to question what they can do to support. ILGA-Europe - the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association - is a driving force for political, legal and social change in Europe.

The organization's envisions a world where dignity, freedoms and full enjoyment of human rights are protected and ensured to everyone regardless of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. The group brings together 490 organizations from 45 European countries. ILGA-Europe opened up a fund to support the victims of the situation in Chechnya.

Go to: www.ilga-europe.org

Rainbow Railroad receives hundreds of requests for help every year from countries where LGBT individuals are open targets of violence.

Because the volume of requests is so high, we focus our efforts on assisting LGBT people who have faced physical violence or face an imminent threat of violence, imprisonment, or death. We have been successful in helping individuals from the Caribbean, Africa and Middle East where we have local networks to support and validate cases.

Go to: www.rainbowrailroad.ca

Helping with Pride 1 Year Old; Seeking Volunteers

By The Central Voice

Woodyard

"We want to raise the profile of the LGBT community in a positive manner" is what Travis Woodyard told *The Central Voice*. One year later the all-volunteer Helping with Pride group is formally incorporated as a non-profit organization.

"We completed nine events in our first 12 months, resulting in hundreds of hours of community service," Woodyard says.

Helping with Pride assisted with community service projects like bagging shoes for Alliance's Shoes for Shelter's Campaign in partnership with Classic Drycleaners. Or helping Dillsburg Library move to a new location. The nonprofit group has also bagged 1,200 pounds of green beans at the Central PA Food Bank.

Other organizations that have benefitted include: Central PA Animal Alliance, Alliance's Shoes for Shelter's Campaign; Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, when volunteers bagged 1,200 pounds of green beans for distribution; helped the American Red Cross with smoke detector installations, and assisted the Dillsburg Library with a move to their new location.

The board of directors behind HWP's success have all agreed to serve a second year: President, Travis Woodyard; Vice President, Jeremy Maschak; Treasure, John Mills; Secretary, Andrew Akins; Board Member, Jake Hopkins.

"...with the support of my husband and a core group of friends I started Helping with Pride."

Woodward had been looking "for an LGBT service organization, but none existed," he explains. "So, with the support of my husband and a core group of friends I started Helping with Pride."

"During the next year we want to schedule a volunteer event each month," Woodyard says.

All events will be posted on www.helpingwithpride.org. July events include baking cookies for families staying at the Hershey Ronald McDonald House, July 15, and hosting a booth at Central PA Pride Festival July 29. In August, the group will work with Habitat for Humanity's Restore.

The board set two priorities for the next year. "We want to increase volunteer participation and raise about $500 to cover our minimum operating costs," Woodyard says.

Sign incident mars June rally in Harrisburg

By The Central Voice

June 11 there more than 90 cities nationwide holding Equality Marches. Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia were among them. Tens of thousands of people marched in Washington, Los Angeles and other US cities for LGBT rights, in one of the biggest protests since President Donald Trump took office, the BBC reported.

Harrisburg's event was marred by an incident.

Cassidy

Cassidy tells *The Central Voice* that they (Cassidy chooses to be identified by the pronouns they and them) and her friend Tony they thought the protestor's sign "was promoting violence," Cassidy said.

"We went to stand with the other people who were around him (the protestor)," Tony said.

"We wanted to negate his message," Cassidy said. "Then he put his sign in front of me. I tried to take it from him, and he knocked me to the ground, I was bleeding from my ear, I'm still nervous," Cassidy said.

Asked what they (Cassidy) would have done if the protestor tried to take her rainbow flag away from her, Cassidy said," If he had tried to take my flag I would have tried to take it back. I would not have pushed him. The push "was uncalled for" Tony added. We were all trying to negate his message peacefully.

Tony explained that the group surrounding the protestor offered to discuss differences over coffee at a nearby coffee house. "He refused," Tony said. The protestor's sign was snatched away from him earlier at the rally by an attendee. Tony surmised that the protestor thought they invitation was into the street. "We clarified that we meant discussion over coffee," Tony explained.

Tony

Anthony, from Lebanon, said he intervened by telling the protestor "This is not a safe spot for you. You are outnumbered." He says, "I respect everyone's opinion but he was not safe. That was my concern."

"When so many people I know cannot be themselves, and I'm a gay man myself, we've all been through so much bullying and harassment, myself included, well, I wasn't going to let the protestor harass anyone or be harassed," Anthony said.

"I know six or seven people, young people, who if they came out, would be beaten and thrown out of their house," he says.

Pictured right, Anthony, from Lebanon, intervened on Cassidy's behalf following a confrontation which left her injured.
+ More photos & video: thecentralvoice.com

LGBT Community Center statement about the incident

On Sunday, June 11, a rally took place on the Pennsylvania Capitol steps in solidarity with the Equality March for Unity and Pride in Washington, D.C. The LGBT Center obtained a permit to use the Capitol steps for this gathering. The purpose of the event was to mobilize LGBTQ+ communities and our allies to affirm and protect our rights, our safety, and our full humanity.

Sadly and disturbingly, a violent protester assaulted one of of the rally participants.

The Center stands in solidarity with the victim, who is a young person from our community.

The Center recognizes that the person who committed this assault also brought into the rally a violent message, which included a sign that disparaged immigrants, and which included verbally calling for the murder of LGBTQ+ people, specifically citing the June 2016 massacre at Pulse nightclub.

It has been expressed by some community members that the assault was somehow warranted or deserved because the victim grabbed the protester's sign.

The Center stands against any and all of these victim-blaming responses. No one deserves to be physically assaulted, period.

We believe that we can, as a community, have productive and respectful discussions of how to strategically challenge those who would harm our communities, how to sustain ourselves for long-term social justice work, and how to equip ourselves and our communities with knowledge of our rights when engaging in public demonstrations. We expect and respect that LGBTQ+ people have varied perspectives on these topics. Within these conversations, however, the Center does not accept the premise that grabbing a protester's hateful sign ever warrants a physical assault.

The Center's vision is a welcoming and intentionally inclusive environment for the development, enrichment, and empowerment of all members of the community. Our hope is that LGBTQ+ people in central Pennsylvania, including those who are members of multiple historically marginalized groups, can exist and thrive free from violence.

The Center is following up with various parties involved in this incident and its aftermath, and, while respecting confidentiality, will report back to the community on our progress.

Chronicling central PA's LGBT history

First of it's kind book underway on region's LGBT community

Historian and writer William Burton of Philadelphia is teaming up with Barry Loveland, chair of the LGBT Center of Central PA History Project, to write the history of central Pennsylvania's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

The authors have received an advance publishing contract from The Penn State University Press *(see photo, right)*

Currently titled *Out in the Hinterland: Creating a LGBT Community in Rural Pennsylvania,* the book will tell the history of this community through the stories of LGBT people in central Pennsylvania who struggled to come out of the closet, faced harassment and discrimination, managed to find other LGBT people and forge friendships, relationships and families, created organizations, networks, and a community infrastructure, started businesses and careers and achieved success in this conservative rural part of Pennsylvania.

"There is virtually no book out there like this," says Burton. "There are many historical accounts of LGBT communities and the movement for LGBT civil rights in large urban areas like Philadelphia, but few works that cover the rural gay experience. Of those, nearly all deal more with personal accounts of coming out; they do not address the creation of a vibrant gay community arising out of the rural expanses between major metropolitan areas."

The book will draw on the accumulated collections of the five-year old LGBT Center of Central PA History Project which has completed interviews with 105 individuals and collected more than 70 linear feet of documents, photographs and artifacts. This collection, housed in the Archives and Special Collections at Dickinson College in Carlisle, plus other repositories will provide the sources for research into the information and stories of local history.

From left: Barry Loveland, chair, LGBT Center of Central PA History Project; standing, Louie Marven, executive director, LGBT Center of Central PA; Shaashawn Dial-Snowden, board chair, LGBT Center of Central PA, and Philadelphia historian and writer William Burton, signing a book contract from Pennsylvania State University Press June 8. Burton and Loveland will co-author a book on the history of the south central region's LGBT community. The book chronicles the evolution in the region's community from the 1940's through present day, from the creation of the first gay and mixed bars to the appearance of the early gay pioneer activists, to the creation of the first gay organizations and ending with a well-developed community infrastructure.

The book chronicles the evolution in the region's community from the 1940's through present day, from the creation of the first gay and mixed bars to the appearance of the early gay pioneer activists, to the creation of the first gay organizations and ending with a well-developed community infrastructure.

Included with the historical narrative will be sections of the book called "Voices," which will contain passages taken from some of the oral history recordings telling compelling stories by LGBT people in their own words. The book will also be illustrated with more than 60 images including historical photographs and images of artifacts and documents in the collection that help visually tell the history of the community.

"The Penn State University Press is excited to partner with Bill Burton and Barry Loveland on this exciting project, and to help bring this important and unique piece of LGBT and Pennsylvania history into wider view," according to Kathryn Yahner, Acquisitions Editor. "The LGBT story in Central Pennsylvania is not only fascinating, powerful, and unexpected, but also full of voices that enrich our understanding of the past and help us look to the future. I'm looking forward to working with the authors to make this book a reality," Yahner added.

"The LGBT story in Central Pennsylvania is not only fascinating, powerful, and unexpected, but also full of voices that enrich our understanding of the past and help us look to the future."

Kathryn Yahner
Penn State University Press

"This is one more step in the vision we have for this LGBT History Project," says project chair and founder Loveland. "We have much more history to document and we hope to use new and innovative ways to present more of this history in the future such as through digital exhibits and video documentaries on the web," he added. Nearly 100 people are on the waiting list to be interviewed for an oral history recording and new acquisitions of documents and artifacts are being added to the collection all the time.

"The LGBT Center is very excited about this latest development in our award winning History Project," said Louie Marven, center executive director. The authors have declined any compensation for their work so all the proceeds and royalties from sales of the book will go to support the center and its History Project. "This donation of the royalties on a book about our community's history is a wonderful investment in our community's future," added Marven.

The anticipated release date for the book is spring of 2019. Dr. Lonna Malmsheimer, professor emerita of American Studies at Dickinson College is advising the authors, and Michael J. O'Malley, Jr., retired former editor at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is rounding out the author team with editing services.

OUT & ABOUT

Scenes from the shores of the Susquehanna River

Wooden lizard?

If any reader also spots this wooden lizard (or ground hog?) along the banks of the Harrisburg's Susquehanna River, please email posops@aol.com. Look closely, you may mistake Mother Nature's sculpture for an ordinary tree root.

Remembering submarine vets

May 20 about 25 people gathered along the banks of Harrisburg's Susquehanna River to honor submarine veterans in a simple ceremony in front of the modest granite memorial listing their names. Nearly 4,000 submariners have sacrificed their lives.

Many are aware, few understand climate issues

Indivisible Hershey works on changing perceptions

By Frank Pizzoli

"Climate change will impact here and around the world," Rachel Mark tells *The Central Voice*.

Along with about 450 other people, Mark is a member of Indivisible Hershey, a local chapter of a nationwide grassroots effort that started over drinks in a bar by former congressional staffers who then authored *Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda*.

Indivisible now has at least two groups in every congressional district in the US.

There is a Harrisburg/West Shore Indivisible which attended a recent protest of President Trump's appearance April 29 at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. Indivisible Spirit/Harrisburg has formed on Facebook. Chapters nationwide participated in the Jan. 21 Women's March.

Hershey Indivisible organized a sign-making event to prepare for the Washington, DC People's Climate March, April 29, the 100th day of President Donald Trump's presidency.

Mark grounds her work in personal terms.

"I'm concerned about climate change because of my nieces and nephews and their small children, who put their faith and trust in the grown-ups who love them," she says.

In general terms, Marks values "the lives of people and children everywhere who want to enjoy a livable and healthy world, because of other species who strive to live just as humans do, and because I value the earth," she explains.

Climate change is important to Andrew Geronimo because "We only have one planet. It's as simple and as cliched as that." He acts on climate change because "the habitability of this planet in 50 years is worth some current lifestyle modification."

For Anne Searer, who has been involved in climate issues for about eight years, the climate is the overarching issue of greatest importance. "Women's issues obviously affect 50% of the population. Immigration and refugee issues disenfranchise large numbers of people. Healthcare affects many who may not have the resources or strength to fight. These issues are all compelling and extremely difficult to ignore but since the climate touches all of these groups it is most important to Searer.

Searer believes she can have an impact on climate change by raising awareness in the general population and motivating "legislators to vote for laws that will reverse the direction in which we are headed." She belongs to Citizens' Climate Lobby which lobbies lawmakers to pass Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation.

"I'm concerned about climate change because of my nieces and nephews and their small children, who put their faith and trust in the grown-ups who love them,"

Rachel Mark

"We only have one planet. It's as simple and as cliched as that."

Andrew Geronimo

"The US has the opportunity to lead the world to a safer, better place or regress to continued dependence on fossil age fuels."

Anne Searer

Mark also focuses on public education around the group's call for urgent action. She participates in the Pennsylvania Going to Zero Campaign and the Citizens Climate Lobby. Both groups advocate for a carbon free environment.

Geronimo takes small actions "in all parts of my life to reduce my carbon footprint. As an added bonus, these things make me feel good and be healthier."

Regarding public education, Mark says the level of awareness around climate change in this region "is probably average. Many people are aware of climate change, but few people fully understand the immediacy and urgency, or recognize the level of action that is needed now."

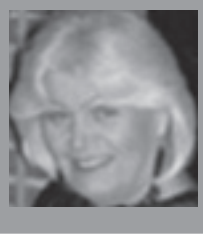
Searer thinks the awareness level "is changing slowly." Human nature resists change, she says, when climate changes are gradual and "you don't see it on a daily basis." Searer notes that at the 2015 Paris Climate Summit, 196 countries agreed to reduce carbon emissions. "The US has the opportunity to lead the world to a safer, better place or regress to continued dependence on fossil age fuels."

Geronimo thinks public awareness on climate change is "Good!"

"Most people accept that climate change is accelerating primarily due to human activity," he says. He thinks the problem is that "most people don't see it as directly affecting them or that anything can be done by one person to alter its course." He'd like to change that perception. "There are many options available to us – commute by bike, reduce meat consumption, buy clean energy, be energy efficient."

If you didn't vote, shame on you!

Trans Central PA Topics



By Joanne Carroll

Events coming out of Washington in the days since January 20, have many in our community scared and angry. If you have those feelings and failed to vote in November 2016 for whatever reason you thought made sense, then you are part of the problem. Voting in EVERY election should be a priority for every LGBT person.

Did you vote in the lackluster Primary Election we recently held in the Commonwealth for several state offices and a whole slew of local races? If you did not vote, shame on you! A race for mayor in a city, township or borough can affect your daily life in more ways than a Congressman, Senator or President could even think about.

Bills for the 2017 version of the "PA Fairness Act" have now been submitted in both the State House and Senate.

While passage of a non-discrimination law at the state level may still be a heavy lift, we are seeing success at the local level.

The number of local ordinances providing non-discrimination protections have been on the rise in Pennsylvania. In fact, within the past two years we have gone from 27 municipalities with protections to 43, with one more likely by the end of June, and three more possibly by summer's end.

If you look and your municipality it looks like passage of a non-discrimination law might be possible contact Equality PA. We will do everything we can to make it a reality.

Remember – If you vote every chance you have, we can make a difference.

TransCentralPA will be busy tabling at this summer's Pride events.

Look for us July 29 at Central PA Pride Festival and Aug. 6 at York Equality Fest. On Oct. 13 we'll be at Millersville University Pride Fest. Please drop by to say hello. If you need to know more about who we are and what we do, we will be excited to talk with you.

Joanne Carroll is the current President of TransCentral PA, an advocacy and caring support group for all transgender identified individuals, their significant others, families, friends and allies.

FRENCH LAW ALLOWS UNDER "SIGNIFICANT GROUNDS"

Terrorist victim's partner marries in posthumous ceremony

Xavier Jugele was a proud gay man and a committed policeman since 2010. Jugelé, 37, was was among the officers who responded to a terrorist attack at the Bataclan concert hall in November 2015, and he was in the crowd when Sting helped reopen the 19th-century building a year later. He himself fell victim to terrorism April 25. He was in a police vehicle on the heavily guarded Champs-Élysées, Paris's most famous boulevard, when a gunman opened fire, killing him and wounding two other officers, along with a bystander. The gunman was shot dead as he tried to flee; the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack a short while later. "He was a simple man who loved his job, and he was really committed to the L.G.B.T. cause," said Mickaël Bucheron, president of Flag, a French association for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender police officers.

Jugele's partner, Etienne Cardiles, has married him posthumously, according to media reports. Former president Francois Hollande and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo attended the wedding. French law allows posthumous marriages when there are "significant grounds" and terror attacks fall into this category, according to the government's website.

Etienne Cardiles (left) pothumously married Xavier Jugele, a victim of an April terrorist attack. Former French president Francois Hollande attended the ceremony.

Progress made at federal level for workplace equality

By Laurie T. Baulig

As *The Central Voice* readers well know, prohibiting employment discrimination is the new frontline in the quest for full LGBT equality in the United States. The concern that LGBT Americans can get married on Saturday and fired on Monday is all too real in a majority of states, including Pennsylvania.

According to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, almost half of all LGBT employees go to work every day in this country without protection from state anti-discrimination laws. It is no surprise, then, that workplace concerns remain the number one topic for this national organization's legal help desk calls.

Efforts to prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity have stalled in the Pennsylvania Legislature, but there is some good news to report at the federal level.

The key federal law, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibits discrimination in the terms or conditions of employment "because of sex." Title VII applies to employers with 15 or more employees. In July 2015, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the agency charged with enforcing Title VII, ruled in Baldwin v. Foxx that a federal employee could bring a claim of sexual orientation discrimination under the statute.

Mr. Baldwin filed a charge with the EEOC alleging that he had been denied a permanent position as an air traffic control manager because he was gay. As evidence of gay bias, he cited negative comments by his supervisor, including being told "we don't need to hear about that gay stuff" when Baldwin mentioned he and his partner had attended Mardi Gras. Baldwin also alleged that his supervisor told him on multiple occasions that he was a distraction in the radar room when he mentioned his partner in conversations with his coworkers.

Put simply, effeminate men and masculine women could initiate claims under Title VII, but gay men, lesbians and bisexuals who passed for straight, or otherwise appeared and behaved in conformance with their gender, could not.

On these facts, the EEOC ruled that Baldwin had stated a claim of sex discrimination under Title VII. "Allegations of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," the EEOC stated, "necessarily state a claim of discrimination on the basis of sex." In other words, had Mr. Baldwin's partner been female instead of male, he would not have been subjected to his supervisor's derogatory comments.

Why is the Baldwin decision so significant? First, some background.

Prior to Baldwin, the EEOC and the federal courts had distinguished between sex discrimination claims based on gender nonconformity, or sex stereotyping, which could be brought under Title VII, and claims based solely on sexual orientation, which could not. Put simply, effeminate men and masculine women could initiate claims under Title VII, but gay men, lesbians and bisexuals who passed for straight, or otherwise appeared and behaved in conformance with their gender, could not.

The notion that sex stereotyping is a form of illegal sex discrimination stems from a 1989 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins. In that case, Ann Hopkins was denied a partnership because she failed to dress, walk and otherwise behave in a stereotypically feminine manner. One of the partners even advised her to take a course in charm school. The Supreme Court held that Price Waterhouse discriminated against Ms. Hopkins "because of sex" because she failed to conform to how the male partners believed a woman should appear and behave in the workplace.

Nine years later, in Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services, the Supreme Court held that Title VII covered claims of male-on-male and other same-sex sexual harassment.

At the time, this was considered a victory for LGBT rights in the workplace, even though the record in the case did not reveal whether the plaintiff-victim in the case, or his male tormentors, were gay or straight. The facts in the case, however, strongly suggested that Mr. Oncale was bullied and subjected to humiliating conduct because of his sexual orientation.

In an opinion written by Justice Scalia, the Supreme Court also recognized that the statutory language "because of sex" could be construed to cover discriminatory conduct beyond that which Congress might have intended when the law was passed in 1964. Indeed, the EEOC cites Oncale to support its expanded interpretation of the text of Title VII.

So Baldwin is significant because the EEOC rejected the need to distinguish between claims of gender stereotyping and claims of sexual orientation discrimination. "Sexual orientation as a concept," said the agency, "cannot be defined or understood without reference to sex."

Moreover, under Baldwin, an employee can show that the sexual orientation

Please see **EQUALITY**, page **25**

WAIT: PA tries to pass non-discrimination bill for 7th time

From page 1

Carolina until much of that state's anti-LGBT law was repealed, and now those jobs are going there. I want Pennsylvania competing for jobs like those. And I want Pennsylvania to be first in fairness.

"To that end, I urge Speaker Turzai to send the Fairness Act to a committee where it can get a fair hearing, and we all know that a committee chaired by Representative Metcalfe just doesn't qualify, based on his record and his own words about the bill."

Gay State Rep. Brian Sims said, "Now is the time for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to act. We, as a legislature, owe it to the people we serve to act swiftly and substantively to protect LGBT Pennsylvanians from legal discrimination. For decades the legislature has allowed LGBT individuals to be legally fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes, and refused service strictly because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Every day the legislature fails to act, it diminishes the values upon which Pennsylvania was founded.

Ted Martin, Executive Director, Equality Pennsylvania, pointed out, "While we are very grateful to champions like Rep. Frankel, Sen. Browne, and Sen. Farnese, this will be the seventh time that nondiscrimination legislation has been introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature in fourteen years, or seven consecutive legislative sessions. How much longer do LGBTQ Pennsylvanians have to wait for simple and basic fairness? This delay is intolerable and easily remedied with long overdue legislative action."

Polling shows that an overwhelming majority of Pennsylvania voters support protecting LGBT people from discrimination. So far in 2016 and 2017, seven municipalities have passed local nondiscrimination ordinances.

In the last legislative session small and large businesses, faith leaders, and allies of the LGBT community contacted their legislators to show support for the legislation.

"LGBT people and their allies will continue to demonstrate the overwhelming support that is out there for passing this legislation. We hope that this is the year that the legislature finally supports LGBT Pennsylvanians who deserve the opportunity to provide for themselves and their families free from discrimination," Martin concluded.

MUNICIPALITIES FORGE AHEAD

Camp Hill passes, Middletown considers

York, Lancaster, Harrisburg and Carlisle have non-discrimination ordinances

Camp Hill

Camp Hill, Cumberland County, May 10 passed an ordinance protecting the LGBT community. With a population of almost 7,900 the borough is Pennsylvania's the 43rd community to pass an anti-discrimination ordinance.

There is no state-level civil rights protections in Pennsylvania, although the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission recently announced their new proposal to treat discrimination against LGBT people as sex discrimination. If implemented, the policy mirrors the state of current law in that federal courts and agencies increasingly conclude that sex discrimination includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

The Camp Hill measure ordinance is similar to ordinances passed in York, Lancaster, Harrisburg and Carlisle.

Middletown

By Dan Miller
Courtesy of Press & Journal

With a population of about 7,500, Middletown is looking to join other local communities by approving an ordinance banning discrimination against people based upon their sexual orientation and gender identity.

An adopted ordinance could be in place by July, said Mayor James H. Curry III, who proposed the ordinance along with a borough resident who serves on the Middletown Human Relations Commission.

Middletown has an ordinance approved in 1979 that prohibits discrimination against borough residents based upon their age, race, color, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, marital status, and/or disability, said Mike Woodworth, a resident of Hoffer Street who was appointed to the borough's Human Relations Commission in August, 2016.

Woodworth called upon council to update the ordinance to prohibit discrimination against borough residents based upon their sexual orientation.

"A number of scientific studies in recent years have found evidence to support that sexual orientation is linked to a person's genetics, making it something as uncontrollable as their skin color, ancestry, national origin or disabilities that they may have been born with," Woodworth said.

The U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, however "the lapse in our borough code could allow for someone whose personal ideology conflicts with this federal ruling to discriminate against someone because of their sexual orientation," he added.

GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Pennsylvanians support updates to discrimination law

In the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, LGBT people can be fired, denied a mortgage, or refused service at a hotel, library, or hospital because of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Despite the slow progress by lawmakers, there is strong support for common sense nondiscrimination protections:

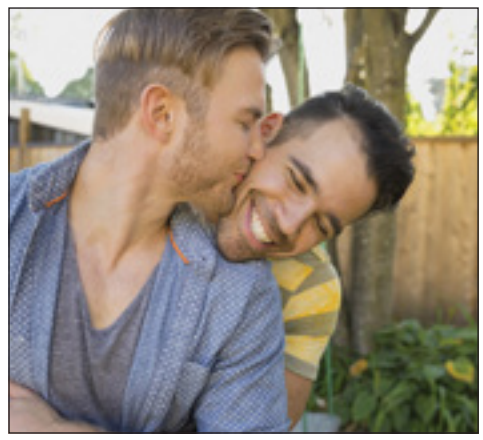
74% of Pennsylvanians support updating the law according to the most recent Susquehanna Research Poll.

400 small businesses signed on to support the campaign to end discrimination against gay and transgender people.

89% of Fortune 500 companies have sexual orientation nondiscrimination policies; while 66% have gender identity non-discrimination policies.

3 bishops from Christian denominations (Episcopal, Methodist, and Lutheran) in Pennsylvania have released public letters asking the state to update the discrimination laws to include gender identity and expression and sexual orientation.

700 clergy and more than 1000 lay faith leaders are part our statewide network and more than 31 denominations have signed on to a moral statement in support of nondiscrimination.



In addition

• The Board of the PA Council of Churches voted in June of 2015 to send a statement to legislators asking them to protect LGBT people from discrimination in Pennsylvania.

• The AFL- CIO released a public statement in support of protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination.

• The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce all support updating the law to protect gay and transgender people.

Discrimination data

Although there is no comprehensive data on discrimination against LGBT people in Pennsylvania, reports have documented the extent of the discrimination experienced by LGBT Pennsylvanians and their families. These studies show that:

• LGBT employees in Pennsylvania, including elementary school teachers, prison guards, and factory workers, have faced discrimination on the job.

• 49% of LGBT students have hidden their sexual orientation or gender identity to avoid harassment while at a Pennsylvania university; and

• Same-sex couples in Pennsylvania earn less than heterosexual couples despite the fact that men with same-sex partners are more likely to have a college degree than men with different-sex partners, suggesting unequal treatment by employers.

EQUALITY: Feds made some progress

From page 24

discrimination he or she experienced was sex discrimination under three alternative approaches:

First, it involved discriminatory treatment that would not have occurred "but for" the individual's sex. (Here, the EEOC uses the example of suspending a lesbian employee for displaying a photo of her female spouse but not a male employee for doing the same)

Second, because the discriminatory treatment was based on the sex of the person the individual associates with; and/or Third, because the discriminatory treatment was premised on the fundamental sex stereotype, norm, or expectation that individuals should be attracted only to those of the opposite sex.

EEOC decisions are not binding on the courts, however. Since July 2015, when Baldwin was decided, a number of federal courts have considered its impact on claims of sexual orientation discrimination. The decisions are split, leaving the ultimate decision to the U.S. Supreme Court on whether claims of sexual orientation discrimination can be brought under Title VII. In the meantime, the EEOC will continue to process and investigate charges of sexual orientation discrimination as charges of discrimination "because of sex."

The upshot is that LGBT Pennsylvanians who work for employers with at least 15 employees may have recourse under federal law to address discriminatory conduct in the workplace, even as efforts to expand LGBT protections under Pennsylvania law continue to fall short.

Laurie T. Baulig, founder of Baulig Law and a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association GLBT Committee, practices employment law in Lancaster, Pa.

The great bathroom debate

Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons

We are used to hearing politicians and others complaining about being quoted out of context. LGBT folks know about certain passages in the Bible being taken out of context to prove that "homosexuality" is a terrible sin. The late Peter Gomes, gay chaplain at Harvard and a fine writer, called this practice "textual harassment."

Context in literature means the discourse that surrounds a language unit that helps determine its interpretation. Context also means the circumstances and facts that surround a situation or event, as in the phrase historical context.

Thus everything we are learning about the LGBT spectrum and all the controversy surrounding the issues it raises must be taken in context, or contexts. After all there are many contexts beyond the historical, including the cultural and social, for example.

The T in LGBT seems to be causing the most discomfort for many people today. And of all the issues surrounding transgender people, who gets to go to which bathroom has to be right at the top of the list.

Why is the bathroom matter such a big deal? Why are so many folks truly in distress about the idea of a person using a bathroom consistent with his or her gender identity or expression? What's going on? What is the context in which this is happening?

"...of all the issues surrounding transgender people, who gets to go to which bathroom has to be right at the top of the list."

In North Carolina 17-year-old high school student Gavin Grimm is told he cannot use the boys' bathroom because the Gloucester School Board says students must use restrooms that correspond with their "biological sex." It says their policy, which conforms to the North Carolina law recently passed, is just "common sense."

Grimm files a lawsuit and is successful at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit. The U.S. Supreme Court decides not to decide on the issue at this point and sends it back to the appeals court for further review.

What are the contexts at play here? Well, several, perhaps beginning with the broad cultural and social changes in how we see sexual orientation and gender over the past 50 years. Millions of Americans see them in traditional terms, but many millions also now understand and appreciate that gender and sexual orientation are fluid as opposed to fixed.

American history tells us that bathrooms in the South were segregated by race back during the Jim Crow era, for many whites feared black men were predators and black women might expose white women to sexual diseases.

We also learn that segregation of restrooms in the late 1800s came about because more women were entering the workforce, and men began to label their bathrooms as men's rooms. Women had to fight to get their own, and they finally did.

And by the 20th century the revival of feminism brought attention to "unisex restrooms." The Equal Rights Amendment was defeated in part because opponents scared people with the specter of men and women being made to go into bathrooms together.

Today, we have more extensive scholarship and scientific evidence to challenge cultural, social and religious norms and beliefs. Does the Bible condemn "homosexuals"? No.

The great bathroom debate is occurring within a political context. Politicians all want to be on the right side of history, and they love to argue about what that right side is. And politicians too often take their positions on tough issues based on their chances of reelection, not principle.

This column is being written in the early months of the Trump presidency, yet another context to consider. A truly unprecedented presidency has brought about a resurgence in the so-called culture wars, and many, perhaps most Americans are feeling rather unstable. "What is happening to our country?" is a question being asked by people of every point of view you can name.

Those who say our American values are being subverted by things like embracing the entire LGBT spectrum will not be pleased with this column. They will question this analysis of contexts, and that's fine. We need a good discussion about social and cultural change to understand just what is happening to our country.

Trum Simmons is professor emeritus at Harrisburg Area Community College.

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MARTIN: Equality PA's leader resigns

From page 18

look forward to continuing Equality PA's incredibly important work as the leading voice for LGBTQ Pennsylvanians,"

The Equality PA Board of Directors has formed a transition team to guide the organization through the next few months and a search committee to execute the search for new staff leadership. The organization invites its supporters to contribute a gift to the newly established Ted S. Martin Administrative Fund to honor Ted's work and the work of Equality PA moving forward.

The board of directors also elected Joanne Carroll of Lancaster as Board President of the Equality Pennsylvania Education Fund and Mason Lane, Esq. of Philadelphia as Board President of Equality Pennsylvania's Advocacy Organization. Tricia Dougherty of Pittsburgh was elected as vice president, Sharron Cooks of Philadelphia was elected vice president of advocacy, John Dawe, CNP, CFRE of Kingston as secretary, and Kira Kinsman of Philadelphia as treasurer. Testa, Rothchild, board Vice President Ernest Owens of Philadelphia, and at large members Terry Barrett (Moscow), Ron Burrage (Mt. Gretna), Susan Roslevege (East Petersburg), J. Mickey Rowley (Philadelphia), concluded their board service. Departing board members' service was recognized during a reception following the board meeting.

DUNN: Local attorney recognized

From page 18

effective way to spark a thoughtful discussion on the topic in Pennsylvania. Dunn's leadership, vision, openness to collaborate and commitment to keeping the project moving were cornerstones in the success of "How Marriage Counts: 572 Ways Marriage Counts in Pennsylvania." Designed to be a roadmap for same sex equality policy and legislation, this report continues to be used by advocates to help remove the barriers to equality.

Dunn is a member of the PBA Corrections System, PBA GLBT Rights, PBA Government Lawyers and PBA Statutory Law committees. He is the former chair of the PBA GLBT Rights Committee, former vice chair of the PBA Corrections System Committee and former council member of the PBA Solo and Small Firm Practice Section.

During his public service, Dunn served on the Juvenile Act Advisory Committee, the Homeless Program Coordination Committee and the Mental Health Justice Advisory Committee at the Commission for Crime and Delinquency.

Dunn graduated cum laude from Widener University Commonwealth Law School in Harrisburg. He holds three B.S. degrees from The Pennsylvania State University.

Source: Pennsylvania Bar Association, 100 South Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

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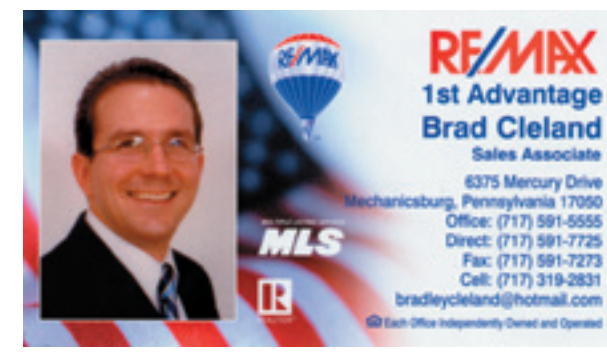

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